

As all of you are aware, our nation is facing the threat of an illness called Corona Virus 19 or Covid-19. As your elders, we likewise understand that each of you holds concerns for your health and the wellness of your loved ones. The elders share your concerns and take this health threat seriously.

Therefore, we have decided to cancel all bible classes and worship services for the next 3 Sundays, March 22, March 29 and April 5th, as well as the two bible classes on Wednesday evenings, March 25th and April 1st.

We will continue to monitor as things develop, will reassess how we will proceed thereafter and pray that we get start assembling as soon as appropriate. We will also be looking at how we conduct ourselves in other assembly matters over the longer term.

Brethren, these measures have everything to do with our brethren in caring for one another more than ourselves in accordance with scripture. You may not feel that you are susceptible.... but your brethren may be. This was not an easy decision to make. Are we going too far? Are we not going far enough? It distresses us to cancel any of our assemblies and bible classes. God commanded we assemble on the first day of the week for countless good reasons. We need God. We need each other. We need the nurturing of God's word, the lifting up of our spirits and countenances in songs, and so much more. But God does not want us to make foolish decisions that put our lives and the lives of others at risk. Our government is acting as we see its role defined in scripture, acting on the welfare of its citizen, not acting to persecute. So please, ask God on our behalf to give us the wisdom to do the right thing. And let's hope and pray this health threat ends soon.

Remember God is in control, have faith in Jesus and be encouraged as we are taught in Philippians chapter 4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Going forward as mentioned, we will re-evaluate how we will proceed based upon how the virus contagion develops. We will prepare for when we are able to assemble together again. We encourage during this period to:

- Continue to set aside or send your offering each week in accordance with scripture. If you are comfortable you may mail a check to the church, have a deacon or elder pick it up, or

simply hold on to your contributions until regular services resume. We do need to continue to fulfill the obligations and commitments of our congregation.

- Take advantage of on-line streaming bible studies. Marshall and others are planning to make lessons available on Sunday morning and classes on Wednesday evening. We will publish the links to connect to these as well as other opportunities. If you need help on how to access these please let us know.
- To spend time in bible study and reading, home devotionals with family. It will be a good time to prepare for our upcoming study on Zeal for the Lord, by reading the workbook, Lifelong Zeal by our brother Phillip Shumake.
- Small bible studies or prayer together by FaceTime or other teleconferencing technology.
- Send us other ideas.

If you need help, please contact one of the elders, deacons or members. Let's be diligent in checking on one another and offering assistance.

Finally, please pray for our church, each other, and our nation as we go through this difficult time. And let's hope and pray this health threat ends soon.

In Christian love and faith,
The Elders