



Dear Englewood family,

Let me begin by sharing one observation and one fact:

Observation – The world is lost – lost in direction, lost in chaos, lost in hope, as they attempt to solve, lead, contain and overcome. Our world will get through this and life will go on, but each day we are all seemingly entering into uncharted territory. Every decision will be scrutinized, every new report rationalized and every circumstance will be personalized by the unique details of each household and those that reside there. No one on earth knows what the next day is going to look like.

Fact - Our God is still on His throne in heaven and His Son, with full authority from the Father, is actively and passionately holding all things together. Let me remind you who Jesus is with some words from Paul in his letter to the church in Colossae:

“¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

No matter what happens, that will never change. Our world, our nation, our city, our community and our church family all reside in the safest place anyone could ever possibly imagine - in the hands of Christ, as He holds all of this together.

While we rest in the confidence of our Lord Jesus Christ, we must take care of our flock physically as well as spiritually. So after much prayer and consideration, the Englewood Christian Church leaders have decided it is in the best interest of our church members and our community to suspend ALL programming, events and activities that take place on our campus for the next four weeks (through and including Easter Sunday, April 12). We will reassess this decision regularly and will likely extend this time period if it proves to be in the best interest of our congregation and community.

As a faith community, we will continue to uphold the vision of ECC to HONOR one God, GROW one faith and SERVE one world. There will be ample opportunities during this period for community, communication, service, growth, accountability and more.

Here are a few examples of ways we can continue to Honor, Grow and Serve during these difficult times:

1.) Online Worship Services – We are developing an online worship service that will offer us a way to worship together. It will combine live and pre-recorded sessions. Watch for more details later this week on how you can join with your faith community in worship, teaching, fellowship, prayer and communion. We are also working on ideas for community to take place virtually to ensure learning and fellowship through Sunday school classes, LIFE groups and more can

continue. Again, stay tuned for more details about this.

2) Alternative forms of giving – The church continues to be the church even when we don't meet in one physical gathering place. We still have ministry going on; it just looks completely different than anything we have done before. We still have Kingdom partners around the world who are fulfilling their Kingdom mandates of sharing the gospel, and they are counting on our support. We will have future needs for those in our faith community that we need to be prepared to meet. All of this is only possible if you continue to worship Christ through your tithes, offerings and Faith Promise commitments. At this point in time, you can give online (www.eccjax.com), mail or drop your gifts by the church office during the week. Please prayerfully consider one of these methods as we continue to do the work of God's Kingdom both locally and around the world.

3) Constant communication – Check the church website, watch your email and text messages, and follow us on social media for the latest announcements, prayer needs, devotional thoughts, service opportunities and more.

- Visit the church website: www.eccjax.com
- Like the Englewood Christian Church Facebook page at www.facebook.com/eccjax/ and join the Englewood Christian Church Friends page at www.facebook.com/groups/77632733774/
- Verify and/or update your contact info by sending your name, current email and cell phone number to info@eccjax.com
- We will also send non-time sensitive information via the USPS mail system.

As a result of this decision, unfortunately the following events, activities and programs will **NOT** be held: Spring Picnic & Egg Hunt, Easter Choir program, all Choir programs scheduled for May, weekly programs like our Wednesday night adult electives, youth groups, children's programming, Wednesday PM meals, GriefShare, sewing group, CWF circles for April, Prime Timer events and ANYTHING ELSE on the church calendar. Let me restate this in simple terms: *During the next four weeks, there will be no campus-based events or church-sponsored in-person activities.*

We ask that everyone remember to choose wisdom over emotion during this time and look for ways to encourage and support your faith community and your community at large. As a leadership team, we would much rather be incorrect and overreact / over-protect than fail to respond appropriately and suffer ill effects on our church family and neighboring community.

Times like this present us with opportunities to shine the light of Christ in new ways. **We must prayerfully consider all of the new opportunities we have to be the hands and feet of Jesus during this time. It may be new, it may be uncomfortable, and some of it may not be very enjoyable, but we can AND MUST honor and glorify Christ and expand His Kingdom.**

In all of this, know that the church has been through much more serious circumstances (does the name Nero ring a bell?) and come out much stronger, better equipped and more prepared to advance the work of the Kingdom of God.

Let our prayers be focused on those who are struggling with this virus, those working to stop this virus and those trying to avoid contributing to the spread of this virus.

Let us also praise God for the eternal hope and salvation we have in Christ, and may we fix our eyes on Jesus, "our pioneer" during these uncharted and uncertain times.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any of our leaders or staff, and they will help you any way they can.

Be good, be God's,

Pete Ramsey

Senior Minister

Henry Pratt, Moe Bacon, Charles Moseley

Elders of Englewood Christian Church