

ONE SAVIOR CHURCH

289 Harley Rd, Guyton, GA 31312

Hello OSC Family,

These are very surreal times. The Coronavirus has changed our world these last few weeks and it doesn't seem to be reverting back any time soon. I'm writing to hopefully accomplish a couple things. I want to inform you on how OSC life will go down through the rest of March (and potentially longer), and I want to encourage you in your faith, hope, and love!

Information about OSC gatherings through March (and possibly longer):

- **Sunday Service:** We will not be gathering on Sundays.
 - We are currently working on a YouTube live option or Zoom call that will allow us to still be together in some way, even though physically apart. More info to come on that.
- **Youth Group:** All youth group gatherings, including this Wednesday night and Dig Retreat next weekend are cancelled.
 - We will be reimbursing all who have already paid for the Dig Retreat.
- **Home Groups:** Home Group gatherings will continue as the home group leaders deem appropriate. We definitely encourage the church family to still be eating together and encouraging one another in this time.
 - Specific Recommendations:
 - Invite a family over for dinner
 - Gather at the church and eat a picnic outside if it's a nice day (w/ proper social distancing of course) 😊
 - Start texting and calling with encouragement to anyone who is sick and is self-quarantining themselves.
 - BIG IDEA: Communicate and Care for One Another in this time!
- **Memorial Service:** We will have a visitation and memorial service for Ralph Butler on Friday at 1pm. We encourage you to gather with us for this. Social distancing can still be practiced but we think it's important to be physically present with Felicia and her family as they experience the grief of loss.
- **Communication:** If you want to stay in the loop we will be communicating in two ways. First, we will be sending out occasional emails. Second, and the most up to date info, will be communicated through our app. If you download the One Savior Church App and allow for push notifications you will get immediate notice when any info or resource becomes available!
- **Giving:** If you normally give by check or cash, now is a great time to get setup for online giving! And breaking news: our online giving platform has changed with the new website and app. We are now using Subsplash! If you are currently giving through Pushpay then you have a couple weeks to switch over to Subsplash. You should have received an email with special info on how to do the switch.

Encouragement in this Time:

There are many things being written and communicated concerning a proper response to the Coronavirus. Ritual hand washing, food prepping, and social distancing are all becoming a part of our lives. However, as your pastor, my role is not to give you the best tips for escaping the virus and staying safe. There are medical experts and civil leaders for that. My main concern is that we recognize this as a time of testing. Will we be defined in this time as a people of faith or as a people of fear? Will hope and love drive our actions or will we succumb to laziness and self-preservation? I'm praying that this becomes a time for the light of the Church in Christ to shine! Here's a couple words of encouragement from God's Word:

- **Enter the Parable** (Luke 10:25-37) – In this text Jesus tells the well-known story of the Good Samaritan. There's a man hurting and alone on the side of the road. The "religious" ones avoid the man like the plague. The good Samaritan goes to the man and cares for him with great mercy. Jesus concludes his exchange with the lawyer with these words: *"You go, and do likewise."* Let us put on the role of the Good Samaritan in this time and ask specific questions about how we can show mercy to others who are hurting, afraid, and alone. Try and adopt one or two practices in the next couple weeks that can be tangible acts of love for those around you, especially the sick and elderly. Think about how you as a home group can enter into service together as a display of God's love.
- **Walk Wisely** (Ephesians 5:15-17) – *"¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."*

These words are very important for us in this time. Some of you, especially the youth and kids who no longer are going to school, are going to have a lot more time on your hands. Will you receive it as a gift from the Lord to be used for his glory? It's going to be important that we not let technology and entertainment take us over with the extra time. There are temptations that come with more time. There are specific dangers to having a lot of time with limitless media entertainment. Are you aware of the dangers? Are you receiving these days with an aim to seek first the kingdom of God and love Jesus with all your heart, soul, mind and strength? Maybe now would be a good time to read *Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch. Maybe now would be a good time to memorize Scripture, play board games with the family, or sing karaoke into the wee hours of the night. My basic encouragement here is to focus on people, your families, and your God! You don't want to get to the end of your week and all you have to show for it is binge-watching and video games. Let's *make the best use of the time!*

I love you all and will continue to pray often for you! If you have any specific prayer requests be sure to download our app for a quick way to share prayer requests with our elders and staff.

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
Pastor Ben