

COVID-19

OUR RESPONSE

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your patience in regards to our church's response to COVID-19.

As you are likely aware, the country is taking drastic measures to impede the spread of virus COVID-19, commonly referred to as the Corona Virus. Given the virus is transmitted easily between people, schools, colleges, entertainment events, retail outlets, and churches are in many cases are cancelling and/or postponing events in an effort to help reduce the infection rate.

A committee was formed to review the impact of COVID-19 and to strategize our church's response to it. We are relying on the facts issued by local, state and federal health authorities and will take preventative measures to mitigate risks. We have desired to make wise and balanced decisions in all of this, weighing carefully the counsel of Scriptural, respecting the guidance of the CDC and our local government officials, and desiring to maintain the testimony of Jesus in our community by being good citizens.

Below are the conclusions of that team along with several points of guidance for our church family moving forward:

CONCLUSIONS

Our church's COVID-19 response team met this morning (03/14/2020) and made the following conclusions:

All Sunday services are CANCELLED through 03/29/2020.

All ministry events and activities **of more than 10 people** are CANCELLED or POSTPONED through 03/31/2020.

All Young at Heart gatherings are CANCELLED or POSTPONED through 03/31/2020.

Life Groups ARE permitted to meet but are not *expected* to do so. Each Life Group should discern what decision is best for their group.

At this time, groups of 10 or less people ARE permitted to meet at the church through the end of the month.

The Office and Custodial staff will routinely disinfect all bathrooms, door handles, etc. in order to ensure a higher level of sanitation for those coming in and out of our church facilities.

The COVID-19 response team will be continually reevaluating this situation and will give an email update no later than 03/28.

CALENDAR CHANGES

Sunday Services at the church (Worship Service, Sunday school, Student Gatherings, Deeper Look) will be cancelled for March 15, March 22, and March 29

ESL will be cancelled through the end of March

All remaining March 2020 Young at Heart March functions (Puzzling Seniors, Stamping, luncheon) will be cancelled or postponed.

Men's Pizza and Wing Night will be cancelled or postponed for the March 27 date

Our church will not participate in the Saturate America if the event is still held March 28. If the event is postponed, we will evaluate whether to encourage participation by members of our congregation. Conquer series scheduled to begin March 23 may be postponed. Stay tuned for details. The Confidence Conference has been postponed.

Again, since this situation remains fluid, you will be receiving additional communication by March 31 with details on April's calendar. If changes occur in the interim, you will be notified.

In the meantime...

The church office will still be staffed during regular operating hours. If you have a need, please do not hesitate to call the church or your care team.

Pastor Jim will be recording weekly sermons. Watch for follow-up emails with links and sermon notes.

We encourage you to watch the sermon videos with family members or others from the congregation. Again, it is strongly suggested that any groups that meet to view the sermon adhere to the guideline of 10 or fewer participants. Also, if any member of a family is ill, you are strongly encouraged to not have any member of the family attend the gathering so that the possibility of the spread of sickness is lessened. The host of the group will have final determination on whether to admit folks to the meeting.

Continue to reach out to your church contacts. While in-person visits may be curtailed, consider phone calls, emails, or video calls. Also, reach out to others who are not in your regular contact list. Be intentional in your communication. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand your church community and reach.

Be the church to those who become ill. Offer to prepare meals, run errands, or otherwise lessen the burdens of those impacted by the virus.

Since the ministry and facility expenses of the church will continue even though we are not meeting as a group for a few weeks, we encourage you to maintain your gracious financial giving in support of this ministry. While no physical offering will gathered through the end of March, you may utilize other means of contributing:

- On-line giving through www.alliancechurch.com/give. You may give on a temporary basis or you may set up a recurring donation.
- Mail a check to the church at **425 Cloverleaf Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022**.
- Through your bank, set up a one-time or recurring payment to the church. Many banks offer this service without a charge. Please check with your bank to verify if there is a charge.

Your To-Do List

- Frequently [wash hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow
- Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stay home when sick
- Connect with others from the church as frequently as you can
- Commit to praying for those around us, including the medical personnel who are on the front lines in battling this and government leaders who are strategizing responses
- **Review the attachments. Keep aware of this evolving situation.**

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

For believers, this is a good time to remember that our hope is in God. Psalm 20:7 reminds us: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." Or, we might paraphrase that to say, "Some trust in their financial portfolio and some in their health status, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." As troublesome as the times appear, we can rest securely in God. And we can minister to the world around us. The church can shine as a light of hope, care, and patience, demonstrating for the world how faith provides true assurance against worry and fear.