

Dearly loved Bethel Bible Church,

March 19, 2020

I am writing today on behalf of our church leadership team to share our plans for the coming weeks in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe the scriptures are clear that we need to submit to our governing authorities and love our neighbors well. We also believe that whether you approach the current challenges as anxious and concerned or dismissive and suspicious, our unity and growth in Christ is our primary desire and prayer.

A small group of elders, deacons and wives met last evening and agreed on the following as a plan for the next 2 weeks through April 2nd. We will assess the situation at that time and communicate again with you.

Our prayer and desire for these weeks is that together with our worldwide brothers and sisters in Christ, our Bethel family will be renewed, revived and transformed in Christ as we submit to our authorities guidance and love both our community and each other through these trials and sufferings. James 1:2-4; Romans 5:1-5; 1Peter 5:6-11.

We encourage each of you to intentionally pursue the following in these weeks we are unable to gather:

1. Worship. Continue to place our focus on and trust in God who alone is worthy of our love, trust and praise.
2. Prayer. Pursue and practice dependence on God for all things in fervent prayer.
3. Love. Bear one another's burdens in mutual care and encouragement.
4. Outreach. Serve others in a way that we can model and explain the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

Plan for March 22 – April 2(to be evaluated every 2 weeks)

1. Sunday worship service, Sunday School, ABF, Life Groups and all Family night ministries are canceled.
2. Sermon (audio) posted on website by Sunday 9 AM each week.
3. Phone tree message of encouragement and crucial info every Monday by end of day.
4. Weekly newsletter (in place of prayer sheet) sent via email by end of day Wednesday to entire Bethel family. Please be certain the office has your current email address and encourage your Bethel friends to do the same.
5. FB video posted once a week to communicate updates, needs, blessings and encouragement.
6. Deacon/Elders stay in contact weekly with groups – special attention to shut-ins, elderly, financial stress, etc. You should be contacted regularly, let us know in the office if you are not hearing from anyone.
7. Seek opportunities to serve our friends, neighbors and community. Please pass ideas and opportunities you hear about to your deacon/elder, call the church office or share it on the church FB page.
8. Please continue to give generously to Bethel. We encourage you to give via mail, we can pick up your offering if requested, you can drop your gift off at the office during office hours or use bill pay or other means provided by your bank. Let your elder/deacon know if you need help with this.
9. Encourage people to post encouragement/needs on FB as well as submit stories, needs and requests to office for weekly newsletter.

Our trust is in our God who promises to be with us and help us (Ex. 3:13-15). Obviously, we make plans as best we can with limited information and perspective. Please adhere as closely as possible with the precautionary guidelines that have been well communicated by our governing authorities. Please pray for our local, state and federal leaders as well as our local medical and first response people.

Let us know what questions and concerns you may have. Please help us to have updated contact information. We will do our best to stay connected during these different days of worship, growth and outreach.

Our hope is in Christ,

Don and the Bethel leadership team

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