



Christ Presbyterian Church, New Haven

CPC Covid-19 Update

21 April 2020

Dear CPC Family and Friends,

This morning in our men's prayer room, we were reminded in Hebrews 4 of our ever-elusive human search for "rest" (since even the spiritual fall of humanity). Our human search for rest takes us through myriads of mis-appropriated substitutes. I am discerning in myself and our world how in many ways, this season of COVID-19 is exposing those substitutes as we discover a fear of losing them. And yet God has throughout redemptive history sought to direct us to a true and eternal rest. He does this through the visual that is transacted through the Sabbath day rest. The rest that it typifies is an ultimate and holistic kind of rest—a rest wherein we discover that in Christ we can finally be comfortable in our own adopted "skin" as set free to live in the peace and comfort of knowing that God is with us, that our certain destination is everlasting and existential rest. It is the growing awareness that our endeavors ought not be an anxious striving but a thankful celebration of the rest and abundance that we already have by faith in the endeavors of Christ on our behalf. I want to encourage us in these words, especially relevant it seems to our COVID-19 season and the fears by which we are tempted.

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (Hebrews 4:9-10)

In our weekly Monday session meeting last night it felt good to be somewhat relieved of that sense of urgency we have been feeling relative to re-building our church into a COVID-19 era "virtual" reality. I again hope that you will revisit our COVID-19 Homepage (<https://www.cpcnewhaven.org/covid19>) on a weekly basis for both updates and reminders of all the opportunities you have to flourish as a Christian along-side of and through the Body of Christ (even if for a while that body is digitalized - Uggggg, hate even the sound of it!).

I want to especially remind you about the prayer opportunities we have together and the importance of everyone participating, both for yourself and for one another. The men's and women's "prayer rooms" are all up and running (20 min) at different times of the day/week, as is the church-wide liturgically led prayer service—with the same service in the morning (7 am) or evening (9 pm) every Wednesday.

Also, we have decided to move forward with our church planter candidacy process. We have two very strong and highly interested candidates that potentially allow us to bring even two planters to our region at roughly the same time. We will do this both virtually and in person (at the appropriate time). To do this, we will be asking some of you to help—perhaps a Life Group to participate in a Bible Study with the candidate, virtual session interviews, etc. It is our hope that we can bring them up earlier than later, even if not to the full expression of the body-on-body church, but with limited interaction via social-distancing. Please then be in prayer for our first candidate and his wife: Jefferson and Andrea Bennett, as I will be setting up a schedule with them later today.

Finally, be in prayer and eagerness for more opportunities for us as a church to shine as lights in the midst of darkness through mercy both one to another and in our city. We are even now investigating how CPC could work along side of our health providers who target the homeless in our city. Stay tuned and please consider if you might be willing to participate!

I am yours most affectionately in Christ,

Preston Graham

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