

As a church family, we extend a word of encouragement and share some of our decisions that temporarily impact our ministry schedule.

Sunday worship gatherings will be postponed for 2 weekends. We will, however broadcast our worship service live on Facebook and provide other creative options. We will re-evaluate for Sunday April 5 and Easter Sunday April 12.

Wednesday nights youth JAM Choirs will take a break, not meeting March 18, 25, and April 1. Our Christian school, *Grace Christian Academy* will extend their Spring break through April 3. We will re-evaluate at that time.

The church office will be open and small ministry groups will be free to make their own determination of small gatherings.

Church...can we talk? "Come now, let us reason together. [Isaiah 1:18]" There is a real virus that is impacting lives. But we believe something else has potential to do much more harm - viral fear. One key official said recently of precaution, "We'd rather over react than under react." That sounds good on the surface, but the wiser course would be to react proportionally and appropriately. Churches are not equipped like hospitals to make medical evaluations and prescribe medications. However the church is well equipped to help you address and manage fear. A.W. Tozer wrote, "A frightened world needs a fearless church." So as a church, we are here to help to build up your spiritual and emotional immune system.

*When you fear God,
you fear nothing else.
If you do not fear God,
you fear everything else.
— Oswald Chambers*

Three principles will move us forward as Christians: Continue, Innovate, Be Faithful. **CONTINUE, don't cancel.** Yes, some things have to be temporarily postponed, but everything good should not be cancelled. The question should be for all of us, "How can we continue?" We certainly don't want hospitals or grocery stores or emergency workers to cancel what they do. To serve others, including those who are sick, we will make every effort to continue, not cancel.

INNOVATE healthy improvements. There are so many opportunities to make changes that are healthy. Let's innovate! Instead of abandoning our work, let's put our ingenuity to work to innovate. Even as we post-pone large worship gatherings, we will provide teaching and broadcast live worship opportunities. Churches and businesses can exercise leadership to rally all of us, engineering solutions and services that meet needs.

Be FAITHFUL not fearful. As a church we will be faithful to baptize you into Jesus Christ when you are ready. We will marry, and sometimes bury. We can pray anywhere, give offerings on-line, and coordinate new ways we can serve others. So instead of being FEARful, choose to be FAITHful.

Thankful. Hopeful. Confident. Blessed.
Steve Wingfield, senior pastor
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Psalms 46 Psalm 27 Psalm 91

God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:17