

At the recommendation of our local and [state officials](#) and in the spirit of being responsible citizens, **we are going to CANCEL all larger and mid-size group gatherings this week (15 people and over)**- this not only includes our Sunday morning services on March 15 but also this weekend's youth event, our Tuesday Bible studies and our Thursday music practice. Regarding future Sundays and upcoming events such as our men's retreat, we will update you next week. Our community groups can meet at their own discretion.

As indicated above, we are not making this decision out of fear but in faithful response to public governmental recommendations and as a way to participate in neighbor love. Doctors and researchers are still learning more about COVID-19- the way it spreads, how long it stays with a carrier, and how to curb this pandemic. Until we get more testing kits and more information, they are stating that larger groups are incubators for the spread of the virus especially to the most vulnerable- the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

So in the spirit of neighbor love, we encourage everyone to stay home and set aside some time for worship Sunday morning with roommates, or with your family. Because the church is not a building but a people, we can be unified in worship and prayer on Sunday even if we are unable to gather. Here are some ways that we could set aside Sunday morning as to the Lord:

- *Listen to this week's sermon.* I will send out a brief encouragement this weekend on Clinging to Christ in the midst of the Coronavirus.
- *Encourage.* Reach out to one or two members of your community group to encourage them with Scripture, prayer, etc.
- *Sing.* Sing together as a household. (Many of the songs we do on Sundays are on YouTube)
- *Pray.* Many people are afraid. We have hope. Pray in your homes for healing, peace, opportunities for love and ask people ways you can pray for them.
- *Love your neighbor.* Christians throughout the history of the world have stood out because of how they loved others in the midst of sickness and crisis. So whether it be generosity to neighbors whose low income jobs are closing for the next few weeks or reaching out to those you know who are sick, consider what loving your neighbor looks like in the days and weeks to come.
- *Virtual gatherings-* if some of you find it best not to gather for community group or for Bible studies in person, you can still have online prayer gatherings and discussions via Google hangouts, Zoom or Skype.

As I said we will be providing updates via email, Facebook, and on our website in the days and weeks to come.

Remember,

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?...

3 ...Though an army encamp against me, *my heart shall not fear*; though war (or viruses) arise against me, *yet I will be confident.*

4 *One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:* that I may **dwell** in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to **gaze** upon the beauty fo the Lord and to **inquire** in his temple. [Psalm 27:1,3-4](#).

May Christ be trusted, rested in, and sought after in this season of uncertainty. You are loved by our King.