

COVID-19 Resource Roundup

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If you have ideas on how we can improve this document, please email info@sojournnetwork.com.

Disclaimer: We recognize that we are not experts on viral infections, nor are we medical professionals or an authority on COVID-19 in any way, but we are able to serve by sharing resources that have been shared with us. We will be updating this Google Doc as often as new information comes to in on the following topics:

- Guidance from the CDC
- General Guidance and Information
- Christian Resources in Response
- Examples of Church Communication

We hope these are helpful for you and your church.

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GUIDANCE FROM THE CDC

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

For faith organizations

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>

Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html>

People at Risk for Serious Illness from COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

GENERAL GUIDANCE & INFORMATION

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<https://covid19.fas.org/1/en>

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CIDRAP Homepage

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy | Live Updates

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19>

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An Informative YouTube Video on the topic | Posted 3/10/2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZFhjMQrVts&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1M0lCaxcVtSFK2pPqVJ8iUgOx06mo6yqQ8Z7A-Qfb0LwhNtsQ8kX8GiDg>

VOX | How canceled events and self-quarantines save lives, in one chart

[Article + Graph on Flattening the Curve](#)

Giant List of Ideas for Being Home With Kids

(For actual quarantine, school closures, weekend social distancing, anytime!)

Thanks to the [Princess Awesome & Boy Wonder](#) Community for the amazing suggestions!!

- Have each kid pick a topic they'd like to learn about and spend 30 mins each day on that topic
- Spend one day reading every single picture book we have in the house
- Go through all the old mail laying around (ok, that one's not for kids although they do enjoy helping tear stuff up)
- Bake something every day
- Have each kid write a letter and/or emails to a different friend or family member each day
- Use all of our building toys on one giant structure
- Wash our hands!!!!
- Races of various kinds in the backyard (hopping on one foot, crabwalk, walking backwards, etc.)
- Try stop motion animation with playdough
- Facetime grandparents a lot
- watch everything on Disney+
- inventory the plants & wildlife (from bugs on up) in your yard.
- learn the parts of plants/flowers & how they function (bonus if they learn the Latin names).
- if you aren't too squeamish & have a spare clear shoebox size tote or 5-10 gallon tank, catch some pillbugs (rolly pollies, sowbugs) & observe them (if you really do this, i can tell you how to set them up. i have about a thousand of them currently because it's too cold here to thin the herd & they've been reproducing all winter. they're pretty interesting).
- write a short story & illustrate it.
- learn how to do simple book binding.
- make paper (from your old mail!)
- have the kids help with yardwork in between playing games outside. They're little, but they like getting dirty and "working" in the gardens.
- [GoNoodle!](#) Great for guided movement, relaxation, etc.
- Board games, card games
- Legos.
- We have some extreme dot to dot books (1400 dots) that the kids love, especially the 5 year old!
- Lots of reading, playing with the dog,
- Working on learning to sew using stuff we have on hand.
- Card making/scrapbooking projects (mostly for me but kids can do it too).
- Getting the garden ready, we need to weed and work the ground. I might get seeds and we'll set up to have our own starts this year.
- Make tents and reading caves :) flashlights, tidy snacks, books, and pillows!
- Have a shadow show in the reading tent (we used blankets over chairs or a table)
- Get binoculars and learn about the birds near your house, look them up on google and search for their birdcalls on YouTube

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- Learn how to make a stuffed animal
- Play with cornstarch and water and cheap action figures
- many educational websites are waving fees if your students school is closed
 - [Here's a list of all of them](#) that are waving fees
- Collect a bunch of tape markers and cardboard boxes. That'll keep them busy for a day or two.
- Watch all the hand washing videos & vote on your favorite. Discuss why each good, helpful, funny. The Holderness parody one is hilarious, the Vietnam Tiktok one is great choreography, some have good songs etc.
- Also pick your favorite song with a 20 second refrain or verse perfect for hand washing length of time.
- Family puzzles. Ones that are 500-1000 pieces and a challenging but not frustrating picture
- We homeschool (4 kids) and honestly, just have fun!!!!
- Team up and really clean and organize each kid's space, making a donation box for each. Parents are included.
- Have a board game day
- kids can also make their own games! Board games, card games, you name it! My daughter spent a lot of time this winter creating soccer and football games played with cards for moves and pieces made out of legos
- Write a story cooperatively. One person picks a character and the other picks a setting and then go gangbusters together.
- the folding picture story one! We called it "eat poop you cat" one person draws a small picture across the top of a paper the next person writes a sentence that describes that picture and folds Over the paper top of the paper hot dog style to cover the picture. So the 3rd person only sees a sentence and they have to draw a picture. They fold over the sentence.
- Any and all art is fun at home: beading, painting, drawing, play dough or kinetic sand, sewing, etc. when my daughter was young we could do art all day.
- Massive board game tournament with all the (mostly forgotten) board games we own!
- Stolen from "growing up global fb page"
- If your school is going on #quarantine and running #schoolonline, get [#GlobalKids for the special price of just \\$10.98](#). Take a screen-free, curiosity + creativity boosting, global empathy + engagement trip around the world, from comfort of your home
- My daughter (6) has enjoyed doing yoga at home. There are kid-friendly YouTube videos and printed cards with poses.
- Zumba or Dance-along videos on YouTube
- We home school exclusively and the best advice I have is check out Pinterest. There are tons of ideas for activities, games, etc.
- Draw self portraits on blank faces
- color coded different interesting places on a map.
- I've had them draw maps of places and then make directions from one place to another to see if someone else could follow it.
- We've done scavenger hunts, indoor treasure hunts where they follow clues through the house to a "treasure" at the end (could be candy, a movie, whatever), and a lot of charades.

- I made videos with my 3rd grade daughter teaching kids how to write code. [Check out the videos here](#)
- My daughter wanted a doll house for her 18" dolls. We saved cardboard boxes and got more from Dollar general and got to work. The closets and couch are cardboard as well.
- There are a few easy "kitchen chemistry" type science experiments that are easy to do, like making slime, baking soda and vinegar reaction, etc.
- we put food coloring under the baking soda in a mini muffin pan and used Pipette to drop vinegar in and then you can see the color!
- Last summer we did an experiment to learn what each ingredient did for a cake (so we made one following the recipe, one without eggs, one without milk, etc.). We then compared and contrasted the different cakes ... Then we ate a lot of weird cake.
- There are a bunch of ideas on [the lab section of our webpage!](#) And we have letters from women in STEM around the world!
- give the dogs a bath and brush
- wash and clean out my car (mostly their food trash and dirty socks)
- mow the lawn (my 11 year old just learned!)
- play sidewalk chalk outside
- glow stick party
- popcorn + movie marathon
- Listen to kid podcasts - we love story pirates and smash boom best.
- Declutter toys!
- Have an Olympics with a bunch of events competitions - funny ones, helpful ones like cleaning and really fun ones like minute to win in style.
- Learn new card games
- We're going to learn to make sushi!
- [Lots of art projects!](#)
- Dig up all the activity books, presents, etc that never got played with, and use those!
- There's always time tested building a tent in the house with blankets and chairs. Great for just before nap time.
- We are going to bust out our hiking gear and try new hiking paths. As long as you stay away from over populated areas you will naturally stay a safe distance from others and sick people generally don't hike!
- Do a study on planets, then have the kids create their own planets- how big is it, where in the universe is it located, atmosphere conditions, can it sustain life, how long is a day/year, name it, etc.
 - you could even spread the planets out around the house to show "approx." distance from each other.
 - [Watch this](#) to learn about relative distance
- Design a new space craft, draw plans, then create out of legos or household items. Spend some time pretending you're on different planets with different gravity, you could seriously spend a whole week on just fun space activities.
 - But that's not limited to space- these ideas would work for animals, geography, body systems, historical events/time periods, etc. Beyond that, do some fun physics experiments like making a bridge out of straws, egg drop protectors, paper airplanes, etc.

- [PuppetMaster](#): an app where you can animate anything from a drawing to a stuffed animal.
- Practice spinning poi - my daughter is just learning how to spin and it's been fun practicing together.
- Puzzle races: put several puzzles (20+ piece puzzles) in a paper bag and shake it up. Pour pieces out and give each person the puzzle box they are to put together. Go! (Cooperation tends to be a result as pieces are traded.)
- Dig through cabinets and figure out recipes for that thing you got at the grocery store and thought "this is interesting surely it can be used for something!" And then make it!
- Audible!

150+ Educational Shows on Netflix

Some Great Tips and Shows here for Families

<https://homeschoolhideout.com/educational-shows-on-netflix/>

Master List Of All Major International Airline Coronavirus Change And Cancellation Policies (Updated 3/16)

“What should I do about my trip?”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/advisor/2020/03/11/master-list-of-airline-coronavirus-policies/#5c9f3e0c6827>

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES IN RESPONSE

The Church Digital

[Podcast 052: Coronavirus & Preparing for Emergencies](#) | Posted 3/9/2020

Link above contains video, audio, and transcript.

Whether coronavirus is a legitimate fear or not is not the topic of conversation here. Fact is, we face all sorts of city-wide emergencies on a regular basis. Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Bitter Cold... Institutional churches face challenges like this on a regular basis in situations that prevent them from gathering.

So what's the plan? How would your church respond in a situation where you weren't able to gather? It's 2020. You should probably have a plan.

That's where we are with this podcast. Whether coronavirus is a thing or not isn't the point. Your church needs a plan, and we're providing you, well, at least the start of that plan! So join Jeff, Rey, as well as, Kevin Lee from Saddleback Church, Jason Days from Outreach Magazine, and Andrew Statezny from CDF Capital, as we discuss the Church and Preparing for Emergencies.

Andy Crouch | Love in the Time of Coronavirus: A guide for Christian leaders.

Excellent Article | Posted 3/12/2020

<https://medium.com/@ahc/love-in-the-time-of-coronavirus-26aeb0396e3>

ERLC | How the church can respond to the coronavirus

Communication Tips, Q&A, and More

<https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/how-the-church-can-respond-to-the-coronavirus>

Witness in the Plague: A Simple Tip Sheet for Churches to Manage Infectious Diseases

[A Shared Google Doc](#) written by a pastor in Hong Kong | Posted 3/13/2020

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13bKFz1PvObLIRXTx9pIPMOyBWIGkKhHdXu_iWXUqjM/edit#

A Lutheran pastor living in Hong Kong penned a response to COVID-19, mentioned by Andy Crouch via Twitter. This is a personal opinion of the author, who is not a medical professional. Not everything in this article is recommended or endorsed.

The author's Twitter thread can be found here:

<https://twitter.com/lymanstoneky/status/1238389832931401734>

Thread by Tish Harrison Warren

A Thoughtful Twitter Thread | Posted 3/12/2020

<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1238141415194066944.html>

- I have some news about our local parish that I'm sharing because it (I hope) can serve the national conversation:
- Our parish is suspending ALL worship services & gatherings for the next 3 weeks (at least).
- I am going to have a thread explaining why.
- This decision was made by a group of our clergy and lay leaders, including 3 expert physicians & some other members of the healthcare field, who are members at our church. I was not part of these discussions, but I'm really proud of our leadership.
- To be honest, I struggled w/the decision at first (which I found out yesterday before it was announced today). We are Anglicans. I believe we need the Eucharist at least as much as we need food or water. The church continues to meet in wartime, persecution, & every circumstance.
- But my husband (also a priest & on staff & higher church catholic than I am) replied w/o a beat, "As important as it is to celebrate Eucharist & gather to worship, love of neighbor is at least as important. And it is not loving our neighbors well to gather in large groups now."
- And he is completely right. Our church isn't doing this out of fear (I have seen 0% fear in the clergy or lay leadership), but out of a desire to love our community well, to protect our healthcare system & the most vulnerable. We are trying to be the church in this pandemic.
- One doctor said, "If we cancel services we may have the opportunity to save a few lives." We're only doing this for 3 weeks (& then will reevaluate). We'll live stream morning prayer with a sermon on Sundays. This doesn't endorse "online" disembodied church in any long-term way.
- We are still committed to be an embodied, eucharistic, orthodox community, but we realize that we need to act soon and decisively out of love of neighbor. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary responses.
- On a personal note, my husband was leading a Lenten series of Friday night "hard conversations" (gender, race, sexuality, politics) with over a 100 people attending. I've watched him put in hundreds of hours of prep for these Lenten gatherings & his talks are amazing.
- They are all cancelled now & I told him I was so sorry. "I'm not," he said, "it's the right thing to do." There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our county, but every doctor I've spoken to thinks it is definitely here. There just aren't (many) tests for it here.
- I don't know what your church should do. I'm saying simply that I know it's hard to believe that things aren't status quo & I know it's hard to let go of things after the hard work of planning. But may we seek to do the right thing in these unusual days.
- I know that's complicated and complex. But we are called to enter that complexity as a church and, in conversation with doctors, seek to love our neighbors well.
- Our head rector has shown great leadership.

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- The mark of a great leader isn't to know it all but to gather others to listen & learn. He has been a learner, listening to doctors and trusted scientists & then made prayerful decisions out of that. He didn't act out of ignorance or fear. May our whole country do the same.

Christianity Today | Coronavirus | Topics | Updated Daily

Archive of CT Articles

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/topics/c/coronavirus/>

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TGC Articles & Note from Collin Hansen | Updated Daily

Archive of TGC Articles + FAQ

Aided by friends and experts scattered around the world, The Gospel Coalition has been tracking and writing about coronavirus (COVID-19) [since January](#). And we're committed to helping you, your family, and your church in three particular ways:

1. To answer your most common questions about the disease. See: "[The FAQs: Coronavirus Explained by an Infectious Disease Expert and Pastor](#)"
2. To give you spiritual and historical perspective on this global pandemic. See: "[Should Christians Be Anxious About the Coronavirus?](#)"
3. To help your church adapt to new restrictions on social interaction and public meeting. See: "[Taking Church Online in a Coronavirus Age](#)"

In all things we want to be vigilant and above all prayerful. Would you join us in asking God to eradicate coronavirus and heal the sick? In the meantime we have an opportunity to follow in the way of our Lord Jesus and in the example of the church throughout the ages. [This is our time](#) to care for our neighbors and share the love of Jesus Christ, which delivers us from sin and death.

"May the God of peace be with you all." (Rom. 15:33)

Collin Hansen

Editorial Director

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25 Hymns to Sing in Troubled Times : 9Marks

A Good List of Singable Songs for Troubled Times

<https://www.9marks.org/article/25-hymns-to-sing-in-troubled-times/>

Songs of Comfort for Anxious Souls

Find the playlist on [Spotify](#), [Apple Music](#), or [Amazon Music](#), and see the track list below.

1. "A Mighty Fortress," Matt Boswell
2. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Live at TGC)," Austin Stone Worship
3. "[Psalm 1](#)," Poor Bishop Hooper
4. "When Trials Come (Live)," Sovereign Grace Music
5. "[Psalm 46](#)," Bifrost Arts
6. "Be Still and Know," Steven Curtis Chapman
7. "All Things New," Andrew Peterson
8. "My Refuge," Rivers & Robots
9. "My Help, My God ([Psalm 42](#))," Sandra McCracken
10. "God Is For Us," CityAlight
11. "[Psalm 3](#)," Poor Bishop Hooper
12. "Nothing to Fear," The Porter's Gate
13. "Do Not Worry," Rain for Roots feat. Ellie Holcomb
14. "He's Always Been Faithful," Sara Groves
15. "All Shall Be Well," John Van Deusen
16. "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," Chris Rice
17. "You Remain Faithful," South of Royal
18. "[Psalm 11](#)," Liturgical Folk
19. "Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul (Live)," Sovereign Grace Music
20. "The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation ([Psalm 27](#))," John Rutter
21. "Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor," Matt Boswell
22. "The Lord Is a Mighty King," Psallos
23. "He Will Hold Me Fast," Keith & Kristyn Getty
24. "[Psalm 42](#)," Tori Kelly
25. "Provider," Rivers & Robots
26. "Abide," Liz Vice
27. "[Psalm 23](#)," Shane & Shane
28. "The House of God, Forever," Jon Foreman
29. "Tis So Sweet," Jadon Lavik
30. "Tethered to the Cross," Danny O'Callaghan
31. "His Eye Is on the Sparrow," Mahalia Jackson
32. "I Lift My Eyes ([Psalm 121](#))," Cardiphonia Music feat. Caroline Cobb
33. "My Hope Is Built (In You Alone)," Aaron Strumpel feat. Page CXVI
34. "On Jordan's Stormy Banks," RYM Worship
35. "My Soul Finds Rest ([Psalm 62](#))," Sandra McCracken
36. "[Psalm 91](#)," Jonathan Ogden
37. "The Secret Place – Acoustic," Phil Wickham and Madison Cunningham
38. "A Hidden Life," James Newton Howard

39. ["Psalm 30,"](#) The Corner Room
40. "Steadfast," Sandra McCracken
41. "Morning Song (Give Me Jesus)," Antoine Bradford
42. "All Things New," Red Mountain Music
43. "Made New by the Spirit (Live)," Immanuel Worship, Sam Allberry
44. "One Thing Remains," Passion, Kristian Stanfill
45. "Praise to the Lord," Sara Groves
46. "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me," Ella Fitzgerald
47. ["Psalm 130](#) (From the Depths of Woe)," Trinity Church
48. "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," Choir of The King's School
49. "My Worth Is Not in What I Own," Keith & Kristyn Getty, Fernando Ortega
50. "I Don't Have Much," Mission House
51. "We Are Not Overcome," Bifrost Arts
52. ["Psalm 131,"](#) Waterdeep
53. "Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)," Chris Tomlin
54. "Sovereign," Beautiful Eulogy
55. "King of Kings," Hillsong Worship
56. "I Will Praise Your Name, Yahweh," John Van Deusen
57. "The Lord Is My Salvation (Live)," Keith & Kristyn Getty
58. "You're the Dawn," Strahan
59. "Way Maker," Mandisa
60. "How Firm a Foundation," Ordinary Time
61. "Fullness of Joy ([Psalm 16](#))," Caroline Cobb, Shane Barnard
62. "Grace and Peace ([2 Thessalonians 1:2](#))," Fernando Ortega
63. "It Is Well With My Soul," The Innocence Mission
64. "I Need Thee Every Hour," Anthem Lights
65. "Christ Is Mine Forevermore," CityAlight
66. "Nothing But the Blood," Wilder Adkins
67. "Living Hope," Phil Wickham
68. "Until These Tears Are Gone," Young Oceans, Harvest
69. "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," Lauren Daigle
70. "This Is My Father's World," Michael Card
71. "Don't Forget to Remember," Ellie Holcomb
72. "Gabriel's Oboe," Ennio Morricone
73. "All Flesh Is Like Grass ([1 Peter 1:24-25](#))," Fernando Ortega
74. "Goodness of God," The Worship Initiative, Bethany Dillon Barnard
75. "We Will Feast in the House of Zion," Sandra McCracken
76. "The Lord's My Shepherd," Stuart Townend
77. "Creation Awaits," Emu Music
78. "The Goodness of Jesus," CityAlight
79. "Always Good," Andrew Peterson
80. "No Longer Slaves," I Am They
81. "I Surrender All," CeCe Winans

82. "Another in the Fire – Live," Hillsong United
83. "Trust in You," Lauren Daigle
84. "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow," Alison Krauss, The Cox Family
85. "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me," CityAlight
86. "All I Have Is Christ," Shiloh Church Choir
87. "Hold Me Jesus," Rich Mullins
88. "Be Still My Soul," Jadon Lavik
89. "Sovereign Over Us," The Worship Initiative, Shane & Shane
90. "Ancient of Days," CityAlight
91. "Is He Worthy?" Andrew Peterson
92. "For God Alone ([Psalm 62](#))," Paul Zach
93. "Eternal Weight of Glory," Wendell Kimbrough
94. "Rock of Ages (When the Day Seems Long)," Sandra McCracken
95. "O Love (That Will Not Let Me Go)," Calvary Creative, Madison Cunningham
96. "There Is a Reason," Alison Krauss & Union Station
97. "Where Can I Turn for Peace?" The Lower Lights
98. "Peace, Troubled Soul," Ben Thomas
99. "Peace My Mind – Live," Common Hymnal
100. "O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines," Claire Holley

EXAMPLES OF CHURCH COMMUNICATION

North Shore Church | Kirkland, WA

All Things Coronavirus | Posted 3/3/20

ALL Material below is free/fair use

Posted 3/3/20 at 6:30pm

A few things about [Northshore](#): We are a 2,000 member non-denominational church in Kirkland. Washington - the epicenter of the US coronavirus outbreak. We have a budget of \$5,000,000 and have 35 full-time staff members (3 of us are in the Communication Department). Hopefully, this gives you context to the approach we are able/need to take due to the size of our church and the budget we have. Not all of this information will be useful to churches of other sizes and budgets, but there is still quite a bit that can be gleaned.

Approach

Your communication around the coronavirus should be a two-fold approach: pastoral and tactical. Communication should be pastoral because, in a time of fear and crisis, people will need to be reminded that God is their refuge and strength an ever-present help in times of trouble. Communication should also be tactical as people will want to know there is a plan and be reassured that you are taking their health seriously.

Before you get into any discussions around pastoral and tactical communications, we recommend you take the following actions:

1. Get decision-making leaders together to be on the same page
 - a. Don't try and manage up
2. Learn about the virus [here](#) and [here](#) to help inform decisions
 - a. Don't let fear drive decisions, there is a lot of false information out there
3. Contact your local State/County/City health office as soon as possible
 - a. You'll want to them to know you exist as a church and in the event of an outbreak for them to give you guidance

Tactical Questions

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Before you begin any form of tactical communication, we recommend you ask your leaders the following questions:

- What does our cleaning/sanitation process currently look like?
 - Are all our frequently touched surfaces involved in the cleaning process (ie doors, handles, water fountains, tables, sinks, check-in stations, touchscreens)?
 - Do we need to take extra cleaning measures?
- What will we need to do around service elements?
 - Will we stop Communion during this time?
 - Will we stop passing the offering buckets/plates (if applicable)?
 - Will we stop passing out bulletins/programs (if applicable)?
 - Will we stop doing a greeting time (if applicable)?
- Are we asking our volunteers/door greeters/welcome teams to refrain from shaking hands?
 - Are we asking them to frequently wash their hands?
- Do we refrain from offering coffee or other treats during this time?
- What does our cleaning/sanitation process look like for kid's rooms?
 - Are all our frequently touched surfaces involved in the cleaning process (ie toys, doors, handles, water fountains, tables, sinks, check-in stations, touchscreens)?
 - Do we need to take extra cleaning measures?
- Are we visibly doing things that help people see cleanliness? (ie putting out hand sanitizer stations, having staff/volunteers wipe surfaces while people are around)
- Do you have a plan if an individual in your congregation tests positive for the Coronavirus?
 - Do you take attendance of kids and volunteers, in case you need to reach out to a group that was around that individual?
- What would cause us to have to cancel services?
 - Does a certain amount of people have to get sick in your congregation?
 - Does the local health office recommendations have an impact on our decision making?
- Where are we posting our closures? (ie building signage, Google My Business, phone messages, email, social media, website)

Tactical Communications

Your leadership's approach and answers to tactical questions should help inform your communications at this point. We recommend getting ahead of the issue so you are not caught flat-footed. Determine ahead of time what communication channels you plan on using (ie website, social media, email, text, from the stage).

1. **If the coronavirus was just discovered in your area**, we recommend letting your congregation know you are aware of it and are keeping an eye on it. You want them to feel safe and that there is thought behind it. Here is an example (borrowed heavily from Menlo Church):

Dear Northshore Family,

At Northshore, we want to care for our congregation in all respects, including the physical well-being of our community. To that end, we are asking you, our congregants, to take precautions to keep yourself and others safe, especially in light of recent developments with the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please be mindful of the guidance from the Washington Department of Health and the CDC, including:

- *Stay home when you are sick.*
- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.*
- *While asymptomatic travelers from China are not mandated to observe a 14-day quarantine, we urge you to consider refraining from attending church events, classes and services until the 14-day time-frame has been observed. We also ask that anyone returning from a high-alert area (currently South Korea, Iran, Italy, Japan) consider doing the same. While you are out, you can access the sermons by Monday afternoon each week at northshore.church/messages.*

The uncertainty of this outbreak is creating anxiety in our workplaces, schools, and day-to-day activities. Yet we remain certain of God's steadfast presence and careful attention to all that is happening. Please join us in praying for those who are affected by this illness, as well as their caregivers and those who are working around the clock to minimize the impact of this virus.

In Psalm 46, we are reminded that it is God who is our refuge and strength, and our ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, let us not fear, but with confidence use this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus through our prayers and our care for others.

In Christ,

2. **If the coronavirus is spreading in your area**, we recommend letting your congregation know your plan of action and what your expectations are of them.

It's also important that you give them an opportunity to feel heard in this communication. Here is what we published when we knew it was spreading:

Dear Northshore Family,

I want to update you on what's happening at Northshore in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in our area. Like you, I've been following this evolving story with great concern. I've also reached out to local city officials and spoken with a number of other pastors in the area to gain perspective on how to best move forward. Please read through this entire email as it contains detailed plans for keeping our campus safe, and how you can help.

At this time, officials are not recommending the cancelation of public events or Sunday church gatherings. Northshore will remain open and we will continue to have services on Sundays and midweek programming. In the event that local and state health officials do recommend closure or we determine it is in the best interest of our Northshore family to close, we will inform everyone to the best of our abilities through our website, emails and social media.

During this time, here's how we are committed to keeping our campus clean:

- 1. We will sanitize highly touched surfaces before and after every service such as doors, handles, tables, water fountains, check-in stations, and sinks.*
- 2. Our staff and volunteer teams will wash their hands frequently and stay home if they are sick. In addition, our Brew Crew will wear gloves when they serve coffee.*
- 3. We will provide additional hand sanitizer stations around campus for everyone to use.*
- 4. Offering buckets will be relocated to the back of the auditorium so you don't need to pass them down the row. Remember, you can also give online.*

During this time, we are asking you to help stop the spread of the virus in the following ways:

- 1. Stay at home when you or a family member are sick.*
- 2. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.*
- 3. Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue or your arm.*
- 4. Get in the habit of NOT touching your face so often.*
- 5. Forgo shaking hands at church for a wave or a friendly smile.*

6. If you or someone you know tests positive for COVID-19, please let us know so we can find a way to help, pray for everyone involved and take any necessary precautions here at Northshore.

Northshore Online:

If you or a family member are sick or need to stay home during this time, you are welcome to watch Sunday services online. We've got an open spot for you to watch Northshore Online during our 8, 9:30, or 11am services on our website or on our Facebook Page.

For families with kids:

In addition to keeping our campus clean, we will be taking extra care of our kids' spaces. Kids' toys and rooms will be sanitized before and after every service. Starting this Sunday, March 8, we will also have online content available for kids who need to stay home.

Three ways you can help:

- 1. Pray – Pray for those impacted by the virus, as well as their families and loved ones.*
- 2. Give – In the coming weeks, we're looking to help those at the Life Care Center, where the virus first appeared in our area, as well as others in our area. If you'd like to join us, you can donate by heading to northshore.church/give/ and selecting the "Together For" fund.*
- 3. Serve – As we've been praying and thinking about ways we can be together for our neighbors in the midst of this outbreak. We've been in touch with the leadership at the Life Care Center of Kirkland to see how we can help. As you may have heard, they are dealing with a number of potential coronavirus cases and are in quarantine. We sent out an email earlier today detailing our plan to prepare and deliver care packages to their residents and staff.*

Questions or concerns?

If you'd like to share your thoughts, concerns, questions, and ideas with us as we navigate our response to this situation, we'd love to hear from you. Your input and feedback are truly important to us. Please email info@northshore.church with any questions or comments.

While we cannot control the virus, the spread or the impact it has in our church, we're doing everything we can to make this campus as safe and clean as possible. We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to help us do just that. We must also remember that God has not called us to live in fear but in faith. As the apostle, Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit of God does not

make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.” My prayer is that God will fill all of us with these three gifts, no matter what comes our way.

Spiritual Questions

Before you begin any form of spiritual communication, we recommend you ask your leaders the following questions:

- What are we doing to encourage our congregation to not live in fear?
 - What opportunities do we have to help our local communities?
 - What are we doing to encourage our volunteers to show up and serve?
 - What are we doing to help people who are staying home to stay engaged with our church (ie livestream, digital content, phone calls)
-

Spiritual Communications

Your leadership's approach and answers to spiritual questions should help inform your communications at this point. We recommend spending twice as much time communicating around this than tactical communication. People will remember more about how you've impacted their hearts than the list of procedures. Every church's approach to this will be completely different, you will know what the best approach is for your congregation (know your audience).

1. We recommend your pastors or hosts **acknowledge the crisis from the stage**. Here is a sample of one weekend we talked about it (skip to 15:25 & 1:00:15): <https://boxcast.tv/view/northshore-online-1100am-lamoawxgmijwc2gxoi89>
2. We recommend the leaders of volunteers **send a video, text message, or phone call to your volunteers letting them know how their service is making a difference**. Remember people often come back to the church in times of crisis - this time they might simply reach out from afar. Don't guilt them into this, let them know how they are valued and how they personally make an impact. Volunteers may be tempted to stay home during this crisis, which is why this is important to do this. (I'll try and track down one of our leader's video they sent to their volunteers)
3. We recommend **looking for ways to make an impact in your community** during this crisis. For us it was simple, we wanted to help out the staff and patients of the Life Care Center in Kirkland, Washington - the epicenter of the coronavirus where unfortunately many residents passed away. We decided to

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provide the staff with Chick-Fil-A lunches one day and the next day we delivered care packages to the residents. We posted this on social media and it gained A LOT of traction in our community (especially in community Facebook groups). You'll notice a lot of fear and negativity on social media feeds during this time, so this is a stark and welcomed difference.

Chick-Fil-A post:

<https://www.facebook.com/northshorecommunity/videos/483234312352107/>

Care package post:

<https://www.facebook.com/northshorecommunity/videos/230841131411054/>

Here is the email we sent out asking for our congregation's help:

Northshore Family,

It's been quite a week. Whether you joined us in person or online, Sunday's gathering was an amazing opportunity to be reminded of the power of God's love, even in uncertain times. If you haven't watched it yet, make sure you do. To watch this Sunday's message, click here.

We're continuing to pray for wisdom on how best to prepare and respond to the recent coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in our area. We'll be sending an email out later today with a more detailed approach on how we are responding and doing our part to keep our campus safe and clean. In the meantime, we've been praying and thinking about ways we can be together for our neighbors with all that's happening. We've been in touch with the leadership at the Life Care Center of Kirkland. As you may have heard, they are dealing with a number of potential coronavirus cases and are in quarantine.

They were excited and encouraged by our offer to bring care packages for their residents and staff with treats, activities to do in their rooms, and other items to help brighten their days through this difficult time. They have 104 residents and around 150 staff members. If you'd like to help out, here's what you can do:

1. Please bring items to fill the care packages to Northshore this evening and tomorrow morning. The main lobby will be open until 9pm tonight and our office opens again at 9am tomorrow. Here's a list of suggested items:

- Playing cards/jigsaw puzzles/puzzle books (word searches, crosswords, sudoku, etc.)*
- Individually-packaged, non-perishable snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, crackers, canned drinks, etc.)*
- Hand lotion*
- Fuzzy socks*

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- *Magazines*
- *DVDs*
- *Premium facial tissues (the kind with lotion to sooth irritated noses)*
- *Please DO NOT bring any homemade food, items with nuts, or used items that could carry germs or allergens.*

2. If you feel healthy, please join us at 10am on Tuesday (tomorrow) morning at Northshore in the Glacier room to assemble these care packages, which will be delivered later that day. Childcare will not be provided, but older children are welcome to help assemble the packages.

3. If you're unable to drop off donations or help us assemble care packages, you can donate to our efforts by visiting northshore.church/give and selecting the fund "Together For."

It's part of our DNA as a church to be together for our neighbors, the next generation and those in need, so that the Puget Sound and beyond can flourish. We believe God calls us be agents of love and care for those who are hurting, especially in times like this. This is our chance, Northshore! Thanks for being part of helping those at risk, however you can.

Other Communications

A couple of other pieces of information your leaders should consider:

1. **Staff communication.** Always let the staff know your plans before anyone else. Always. They are your team members and can help answer many questions on your behalf.
 - a. What policies/closures does the staff/volunteers need to be updated on?
 - b. What does it look like for staff to work remotely?
 - c. What does PTO/Sick Time look like?
 - d. Who is the point person for communication?
 - i. You'll want this person to set the standard for all forms of communication to flow from
 - ii. You'll want your staff and volunteer reiterating what has already been communicated - be consistent and clear!
 - e. Are there staff/volunteer social media policies in place?
 - i. You don't want staff or volunteers mentioning they think they know someone who attends your church and has the virus

- 2. Dealing with the press.** Be prepared for the press to come knocking. This can be a great opportunity for exposure in your community - if you're ready and have a plan!
- a. Who is the point person to talk to the press?
 - i. You'll want that person to have knowledge of the entire approach and policies.
 - ii. They'll need to be consistent with what is posted and said - they pick up on inconsistencies!
 - iii. Try and control some of the narratives and stay positive, encouraging and calm.
 - iv. Avoid letting them walk up to people in your congregation who you don't know. It could be someone's first day there and you don't want them feeling out of place and uncomfortable
 - b. Try reaching out or tagging the press if you are making an impact in the community.

Washington Post Article:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/coronavirus-spread-kirkland-washington/2020/03/01/5e112fb8-5c10-11ea-9055-5fa12981bbbf_story.html

Daily Mail Article:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-8066783/Panic-epicenter-coronavirus-outbreak-Kirkland-Washington.html>

Q13 Fox:

Link coming soon

Spirit FM:

Link coming soon

More content coming in the days/weeks ahead.

Reality SF | San Francisco, CA

Practical Webpage & Resources for House to House | Posted 3/11/2020

The city of San Francisco has now prohibited all large group events of 1,000 or more persons. (Additionally, the California Department of Public Health has strongly encouraged postponing or canceling gatherings of 250 or more). Therefore, SFUSD has suspended our permit to gather at Everett Middle School on the next two Sundays, March 15th and 22nd.

In times like this, it's important to remember that the Church is not a Sunday event or building, but a people empowered by the Spirit. In the Book of Acts, we see the early church “day by day” gathering in large spaces (“temple courts”) and gathering in smaller contexts (“house to house”), teaching the way of Jesus. So over these next two Sundays, we will live into our study of Acts in a real way as we shift to a “house to house” model, gathering in homes with our Community Groups to pray, read Scripture, and break bread. We’re calling this simply, “House to House.”

In the audio below, listen to Dave Lomas share more about the vision for House to House and what it will look like on these Sundays.

Below, explore resources on how Community Groups and those not in community can participate in House to House.

<https://realitysf.com/category/series/house-to-house/?audio=11908>

The Hallows Church | Seattle, WA

Email + Helpful Soul-Enriching Exercises for Church | Posted 3/11/2020

Hallows Church,

As the unfolding outbreak of the Covid-19 Coronavirus introduces new challenges to society, we are forced to wrestle through questions regarding how best to love each other and our neighbors during this unique stretch of life. We desire to be both prudent and proactive as we plan for the days ahead. In every situation, we resist the urge to live by fear, choosing rather to live by faith. And so after much research, prayer, and dialogue, it is in faith that we are making the following adjustments to our weekly rhythms for the remainder of March.

#1 Sunday Worship Gatherings

For the remainder of March, we will not gather in person for the purpose of worship. Instead, we will provide a video link to a gathering led by our elders, ministerial staff, and various volunteers. The video will direct you to worship in your homes as a smaller group of friends, and families. Although the gathering will be prerecorded, we hope that you can set aside the 10 am hour for that purpose on each Sunday. It is comforting to know that our faith family will gather in spirit at that time all across our city.

You can first access the link each Sunday morning in March by the home page of our website (hallowschurch.org). There, you will also find a tab with instructions on how you may continue to worship through giving during this time. You are encouraged to distribute and share the video with anyone you desire.

Of course, this is neither an ideal nor a preferable arrangement because there is no adequate replacement for how the Spirit moves among God's gathered people. But, by God's grace, we live in an era when technology can assist us in staying connected and growing together in Christ.

#2 Wednesday's Prayer Gathering (3/11/20)

Our final in-person gathering for the month of March will be tonight's prayer gathering. We will gather at our Fremont Expression (503 N 50th St) from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. The service will convene in Emmanuel Bible Church's sanctuary. If you are able, please join us for a vital time of worship and prayer for our church and our city.

Please stay tuned as we are discussing ways we may continue to pray with each other through this time.

#3 Missional Communities

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Missional Communities are encouraged to use wise discretion regarding when, where, and to what extent they shall gather. Pastor Bryant will be providing content and creative direction to MC leaders as they navigate these next few weeks.

Isolation is harmful to one's soul. Let's look for creative and intentional ways to nurture gospel-saturated relationships during this time. Make phone calls. Shoot text messages. Send emails. And, if possible, grab a quick coffee or take some walks with each other to catch up. Please make the effort to check-in and care for one another.

#4 Soul-Enriching Resources

- **Psalms for this Season:** Starting on Monday, March 16, I will be posting a series of devotions drawn from my morning meditations on various psalms. My hope is to help you experience the various ways in which God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble (Ps. 46:1). You will find these devotions posted on our blog each weekday morning at hallowchurch.org/resources/blog.
- **Family Worship Guides:** Pastor Mark will be providing a family worship guide each week for parents and caretakers to use in the discipleship of their children. Instructions will be provided to help you make the most of that opportunity. If you have not led a family worship time before, leverage this opportunity to learn how to do so and to cultivate a holy habit for you and your family. Again, Pastor Mark will be available to answer any questions or to provide any coaching that you might need.
- **Prayer Prompts:** Each weekday at 7 pm, we will post a prayer prompt on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram: @hallowchurch). Once received, please pause for a moment and pray in the direction provided.
- **The Gospel Clarity Podcast:** We will release episodes designed to help us think through how we can best love each other and our neighbors during this time.

#5 Continue to Exercise Caution

People who are at higher risk of illness may want to consider ways to lower their risk of infection by limiting contact with crowds, including those: 1) over 60 years of age, or 2) with underlying health conditions such as heart disease and lung disease, or 3) with weakened immune systems, or 4) pregnant. If you, or a family member, has a cough, fever, or other respiratory difficulties, we encourage you to refrain from participating in any church-related activities until you are fever-free for 48 hours.

#6 Personal Health

Please let us know if you become ill so we can pray for you and serve you in all the ways that we are able.

We continue to monitor the latest news and recommendations released by the CDC and governing officials. We will keep you posted as we learn more or if any plans change. If you have questions or concerns please email elders@hallowchurch.org.

Stay connected by regularly checking our church's website for updates or by following our church's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram: [@hallowchurch](https://www.instagram.com/hallowchurch)).

In Christ,

Pastor Andrew and the Elders

Crossroads Bible Church | Bellevue, WA

[Health & Wellness Webpage](#) + [Email Communication](#) | Posted 3/12/2020

Dear CBC family,

I hope this email finds you doing well. I am sending to a very wide audience to ensure we're reaching everyone engaged at CBC. You are in my constant thoughts and prayers during this season with the concern of the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak. We have established a [Health and Wellness](#) page on our website providing details on our response, guidance, and trustworthy sources of information. We will update this page daily as more information becomes available and as the situation changes, but I wanted to write a letter as your pastor to frame this situation with a biblical worldview.

It's rather providential that we're in the midst of our study through Romans 9-11, which details God's sovereignty like no other unit of Scripture. While these chapters are discussing eternal salvation, the resounding truth of God's sovereignty and authority is equally relevant in every area of our lives. Throughout Romans, the apostle Paul uses arguments from the greater to the lesser. One of the most compelling is in Rom 8:32: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" Paul's point here is straightforward: If God has done the big thing, delivering up Jesus, will He not do little things, such as providing assurance and security? The answer is: Absolutely! If God the Father sent Jesus the Son to die on the cross for our sins, of course He'll bless us with everything we need for life and godliness (cf. 2 Peter 1:3). The promise of Rom 8:32 also includes God's sovereignty over your daily concerns.

In the wake of the Coronavirus, may we reflect on the following truths: First, God is sovereign over the days of your life. Jesus put it like this: "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:28-31). Jesus' words remind us that we don't have to fear death, and we will not pass from this life until the Lord calls us home for His purposes. Rest in these comforting realities!

Second, our lives are brief and uncertain. The apostle James declares: "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). The psalmist exclaims: "O LORD, help me understand my mortality and the brevity of life! Let me realize how quickly my life will pass!" (Psalm 39:4 NET) Again the psalmist writes: "The days of our lives add up to seventy years, or eighty, if one is especially strong. But even one's best years are marred by trouble and oppression. Yes, they pass quickly and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10 NET). In light of these sobering realities, the psalmist writes: "So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You [God] a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Even if we live long and prosper, our lives are here one day and gone the next. This world is not our home; we are

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sojourners who are just passing through. May we continually adopt an eternal perspective on the temporal nature of our lives. Let's live like we're leaving.

Third, we may be entering into a season of great spiritual receptivity. When people are faced with their mortality, they may be more responsive to the good news of Jesus. Matthew writes: "Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:35-38). May God give us eyes to the spiritual harvest right before us and may we be His workers. As you store up goods for our families, may we share what we have with others. May we open up our homes to neighbors and prepare them a homecooked meal. In Jeremiah 29:7 the Lord said to His captive people: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare." As we meet practical needs and demonstrate Christ-like care, may we pray for the boldness to make the gospel known (Ephesians 6:19-20).

Please know that I'm praying for you, along with CBC's leadership. We deeply care about you.

With love, Keith

City on a Hill | Greater Boston Area

Helpful Email of Dos & Don'ts | Posted 3/12/2020

Coronavirus Response

As concerns about the new strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) mount in the US and worldwide, we would like to encourage everyone to remain calm but be informed about how to best care for each other and our community. Below is advice recently received from the office of Congresswoman Katherine Clark (MA-5) that should be helpful for us:

“With reports indicating an increase in Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the United States and across the globe, I wanted to share prevention measures you should take to stay healthy and update you on the important work we are doing in Congress to effectively respond to this growing public health concern.

Prevention

Here are simple, preventative steps recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

- *Wash your hands with hot, soapy water for at least 20 seconds.*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.*
- *Stay home when you are sick.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using household cleaning sprays or a wipe.*
- *Avoid touching frequently-used public objects with your hands like elevator buttons, doorknobs, and public transportation handles.*
- *Get a flu shot, not because it will prevent the spread of COVID-19, but so that you stay healthy and out of the hospital.*

Fighting Misconceptions and Misinformation

As the situation continues to develop, the amount of information being circulated about COVID-19 will continue to grow. In order to stay well-informed and avoid falling for falsehoods, be sure to follow these helpful “dos and don’ts”-

DO: Rely on trusted sources like [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) and the [CDC](#) for important public health updates.

DON'T: Fall for false information circulating online. It's very easy for inaccurate or even dangerous information to be shared rapidly on social media platforms.

DO: Stay updated on travel advisories and warnings issued by the State Department. You can view the complete list of travel advisories issued by the State Department [here](#).

DON'T: Stigmatize others. It is important that we reject stigmatizing falsehoods disparaging and negatively impacting the Asian American community in the United States and abroad. According to the CDC, stigma and discrimination can occur when people associate an infectious disease like COVID-19 with a specific population or nationality, even though not everyone in that population or from that region has the disease and members of particular groups are at no greater risk of contracting it.

DO: Stock up on food, home supplies, and medicine. As with any emergency, it is recommended that you stock up on a 30-day supply of any needed prescriptions as well as food staples, laundry detergent, tissues and all-purpose cleaners, and also diapers, if you have small children.

DON'T: Stockpile on surgical face masks or other similar types of specialized protective gear. According to the Surgeon General, they are not effective in preventing the general public from catching COVID-19 and need to be readily available for health care providers and those who are actually sick. Stockpiling these items can cause shortages and negatively impact those who need them.

Most of all, it is important that we be prepared and don't panic. The majority of COVID-19 cases are mild with symptoms similar to the common cold. Should you begin to feel unwell, call your primary care provider right away. If you do not have a primary care provider, please contact the Boston Coronavirus Hotline at 617-724-7000. This is open 8am-8pm daily.

City on a Hill Brookline, in light of this advice, we kindly request that if you are actively sick or were recently sick, please stay home from Sunday services and Community Group gatherings, especially if you have had a fever of 100.5 or higher, coughing, or vomiting anytime in the past 72 hours. This is especially true for children experiencing vomiting. This is not a means of isolation, but of care for you and for others.

If you believe you have possibly been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please don't panic. Simply take further measures as outlined at the two government sites mentioned above. While we **do not** want to give into fear, we **do** want to be wise and act in love towards others by following the above guidelines. For more information on COVID-19 and how to best care for you and others please visit the following [CDC resources](#).

Lastly, we'd like to share these concluding proactive steps to best serve our church and community.

Sundays for Now: For Sunday morning worship gatherings, we will continue meeting unless Brookline Public Schools and the city advise otherwise. We will clean thoroughly, receive communion via [pre-filled communion cups with wafers](#) and pause our coffee and bagel stations for the time being. We will keep Bibles and connection cards on a table at the back of the Multipurpose Room to be picked up if needed. Offering will be taken at the back instead of being passed through the rows.

Online Tools: The CoaH Network is exploring potential online connecting options like Facebook Live for Sunday gatherings and Zoom for Community Groups for use, should Public Schools or larger public gatherings be advised to be put on temporary pause.

CoaH Kids: If Sunday gatherings do move to temporary online tools like Facebook Live, we will send family devotional material that can be read together by families.

If you self-quarantine and need help with groceries or other items, or if you are unable to work at this time and need help, make it known to us. We are here to help you as we can.

Serving our community: We exist for God's glory, one another and our community. We will do all we can to serve any and all we can at this time. If you know of needs we can meet, please let us know and we will do the best we can to help.

If you need prayer or help for any reason, please reach out to us! As a church family, we need not fear or panic. We calmly trust God and take wise and proactive steps to care for each other and our community.

Cross of Christ | Costa Mesa, CA

Example video communication from Nick Bogardus + Brief Email | Posted
3/12/2020

Cross of Christ,

I did not expect to make this announcement when I woke up this morning but that's how quickly this situation is evolving.

In light of the Governor of California's statement last night and in coordination with other pastors in Orange County and around the country, we are taking two steps as a church.

1. Suspend physical church activities for two weeks and then re-evaluate.
2. Form a Crisis Response team.

Please [view the whole update](#) for the full context, all of the information and to know what to expect.

The [video will answer](#):

1. What we are doing for the next two weeks.
2. Why we are going to do it.
3. What you can do individually.

with faith, hope, and love,
Pastor Nick

Sojourn Midtown | Louisville, KY

Email from Jamaal Williams + Sojourn Collective Response | Posted 3/12/2020

<https://sojournchurch.com/coronavirusupdate>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=540220323285735>

Dear Sojourn Midtown,

We will not be holding in-person services this Sunday, and all church-sponsored events from March 12-March 21 are canceled or postponed. However, we will host an online service on [Facebook Live](#). You don't need a Facebook account to watch; just follow the link.

I hope that you will join us online to sing, pray, recite God's Word, give, and listen to the sermon. The service will stream at 10 am and will stay on Facebook permanently. Feel free to help us spread the word!

Though we are giving you an alternative to our normal Sunday gathering, I imagine this news is a disappointment to some. Please know that this was not an easy decision, that it was made with the health of our members in mind, and only after much prayer.

While many factors went into this decision, we believe not holding services this week is the best way we can love our neighbors until we have more information.

While canceling Sunday services won't eliminate the spread of the virus, we do see evidence that it could help slow it down and also help prevent hospitals from being overloaded.

Though we are not gathering on Sunday, we *are* still the church because the church is the redeemed people of God, not a building. So while Sunday gatherings are important, we believe that missing it this week for a national health crisis is the wisest decision. For more information on our reasoning, check out the FAQ at sojournchurch.com/coronavirusupdate

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I'm confident that God will work this situation for good, and I believe our church can be a great light to our city in the days and weeks ahead. I'm looking forward to singing with you and preaching God's word to you this Sunday. Please tune in as I'll be addressing this situation with what I trust will be a prophetic and encouraging word.

In the meantime, here are some psalms to read and pray through:

Psalm 23

Psalm 46

Psalm 91

Psalm 121

Also, here is a verse that you can put to memory that will help you if your concern turns to fear:

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.* -2 Timothy 1:7*

Family, let's look to Christ knowing that ultimately he is the one who will give us wisdom and guide us through.

Stay Gritty,

Jamaal Williams

Lead Pastor

Sojourn Church Midtown

Dear Sojourners,

Across the history of the church, it has been necessary for the church to consider how and why it gathers. Persecution, at times, has led the church underground. We've heard stories of Christians in China baptizing in bathtubs, Christians in Africa halting services because of threats of violence against their villages, and much, much more.

At this moment, we face a unique crisis: a fast-spreading and still somewhat mysterious virus called the coronavirus. Health officials, both from the CDC and the Governor of Kentucky have discouraged churches from meeting because of the risk of infection from the serious and deadly disease it spreads.

For this reason, based on the best information we're aware of, we believe it prudent to cancel services this weekend in order to love our neighbors well and prevent the spread of disease.

We're praying for doctors and nurses and first responders, that they would be able to care well for those who are sick. We're also praying for those who are working night and day to find a vaccine. We invite you to join us.

There comes a time when "loving your neighbor" involves putting yourself at risk, as the church has historically done during plagues and outbreaks of leprosy. That time may well come for us. But for now, we're submitting to the recommendations of our civil authorities and praying that the spread of the disease diminishes in the days to come.

Pray for those infected. Pray for those mentioned above who are at-risk. And pray for us as we continue to discuss what's best for the church.

Grace and peace,
The Lead Pastors of Sojourn Collective

Bridgetown Church | Portland, OR

House to House [Video Communication](#) + Email | Posted 3/12/2020

With Coronavirus (COVID-19) being reported in the greater Portland area, local officials have placed a restriction on public gatherings for the next four weeks, limiting attendance to 250 people. While the virus is really not dangerous to the vast majority of our church, it is very dangerous to some and we want to care for the vulnerable, which in this case, is the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. This is not out of fear, but out of love.

We are cancelling our Sunday gatherings, but we are not cancelling church.

As we say all the time, church is not a building, or an event, it is a people. So we are running an initiative called “House to House,” based on the line from Acts 2, where the first followers of Jesus would gather in larger groups at the temple on sabbath, and then in smaller groups in homes around a table throughout the week.

This Sunday we invite you to gather with your Bridgetown Community, open your home to family and friends, and be the church. We are preparing an outline for you to follow, with a teaching from our team available on video and audio.

“House to House” coming soon.

Be sure to follow along for updates about small events throughout the week as the situation continues to develop. In the weeks ahead, may we follow the way of love as we seek to be a non-anxious presence in a cultural moment of anxiety, and to love and care for those in our community.

Let us know if you have any questions or need any help.

Summit Church | Fort Myers, FL

Video Communication + [Church Webpage](#) | Posted 3/12/2020

EXCERPT: OUR SPIRITUAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19.

While the world around us responds to this threat with panic and fear, we choose to respond with trust and faith. Why? Because although this virus reminds us that sickness and death are certain in this world, we worship the One who overcame death itself. There is an empty tomb that proves death has been defeated. Our hope is not a “fingers-crossed,” “hope-for-the-best” mentality, but a faith-filled certainty that gives us joy and peace in times of troubles. May we not be overcome by fear in this moment, but may we choose to continue to trust the One who has given us life in and through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Perhaps you’re reading this and find yourself longing to know this hope we just described. The reality is it can only be found in the God who created you to know him and love him. He is the source of all life, joy, hope and peace. Unfortunately, our sin has separated us from him, and its consequences are ultimately death. But God in his grace and mercy has made a way back to him. In his goodness, he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to live a perfect life without sin and to die on a cross as our substitution. And the greatest news is that Christ did not simply die for us, but he rose victoriously from the grave, overcoming sin and death on our behalf, and now offers us life eternal by simply responding to him in faith and trust.

If you’ve never responded to this good news by placing your faith and trust in Christ and his saving work on the cross on your behalf, then we hope and pray that today will be the day.

For those of us who have trusted Christ, times like these give us the unique opportunity to share the good news of the gospel. Take this opportunity to listen to the fears and concerns of your neighbors and co-workers, and rather than shaming or mocking them, speak grace, truth and love. Summit Church, take this moment as yet another opportunity to represent the gospel to every man, woman and child. May our God fill you with his joy and peace, and use you to demonstrate and proclaim his gospel.

NewThing Network

Email on how to gather while scattered | Posted 3/13/2020

Thank you for your leadership in NewThing. I am grateful for you!

We are all facing the coronavirus (COVID-19) challenge. Our NewThing team leaders are tracking news of the virus both locally and globally while the uncertainty surrounding this virus is causing much fear and anxiety. We are taking the challenges posed by this virus seriously, but we also must remember that God is our ever-present help in times of trouble; therefore, we do not need to live in fear ([Psalm 46:1-2](#)). We can move forward in confident trust that God is at work and that God can use even this season to help more people find their way back to Him.

3 Questions You Probably Have:

1. How Can Our People Still Gather?

- Social Media platforms, [FREE resources](#) from Life.church and [a great article from them on how to do it](#).
- AND here are some links to NewThing Church services you can share:
 - [Community Christian Church](#)
 - [242](#)
 - [Church of the Four Corners](#)
- Facebook Live: If you have a Facebook account you can simply stream whatever your gathering becomes. This might be a 'stripped down' service that you do from a living room or coffee shop.

2. How Do Small Groups Still Meet?

- Here is a [great article from Saddleback about launching 1,000 online small groups](#) from 2015 - if it worked then, it will work even more today!
- Google Hangouts is a great FREE TOOL for you to use.
- Also, ZOOM offers a FREE service.
- Also, [RightNow Media](#) is a fabulous resource for online curriculum.

3. How Do People Keep Giving?

- We knew you wanted to know the answer to that question :) This requires intentional conversations with your staff, leaders, and then your attenders.
- Encourage them to set up a recurring gift online through your online portal. Don't have one? Google it. You will find dozens of resources.

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- What if you simply sent an email with links to your giving platform? You can also post the link to your social media channels.

Other Resources

In addition, I want to pass along several resources we've compiled to help you lead your church through this season:

- Here is some [really great perspective from the global church and what is being learned](#) from this pandemic.
- Here's [something from SEND Network](#) on how to prepare for the crisis.
- This [post from Mike Frost](#) is inspiring!
- Our friends at Stadia are [hosting a webinar next week](#).

If there's anything the NewThing team can do for you, please let us know!

One last thing: During a rather challenging season of ministry several years ago, a dear friend of mine reminded me that: "God's Got This." What was true in my life during that season is also true of what is happening in the world today. I urge you not to forget it: "God's Got This!" ([Hebrews 13:2](#)).

Praying for you, your families, your teams, and churches,

Patrick O'Connell
Global Director, NewThing