

Dear Church Family,

I want to begin by saying that our God is good. He is trustworthy and He is clearly in control. God has not been surprised by COVID-19 nor will His purposes in this world be stopped because of it. While we may feel unprepared and uncertain, we know that we are able to put our faith and trust in God. We encourage you not to live in a spirit of fear but to allow His peace to lead and direct us all.

Today, we specifically pray for the peace of Christ to bring us calm in the midst of this storm. Further, we pray that the love and mercy of Christ will be experienced and that many will see Him as the only hope for the world!

This morning, our staff met and considered how we should proceed with the COVID-19 health scare. After consultation of our medical and government authorities, we have chosen to only offer an ONLINE worship experience for this Sunday, March 15. Church has not been canceled – we are simply choosing to gather online. Here is what this weekend & week will look like:

- **WORSHIP SERVICE:** (3/15)
  - We will offer one online service at 11am.
  - The only way we can currently make this available LIVE is through Facebook. The feed will begin a few minutes before 11am on our church Facebook wall.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/flushingcommunitychurch/?fref=nf>
  - This service will feature live music with Pastor Steve, our KidCity lesson from Pastor Kelli, and Pastor Terry will continue our Family Matters series by considering ways we can serve one another.
  - It is our hope to be able to record this service and make it available to watch in ways other than on Facebook.
- **YOUTH GROUP:** Pastor Troy will be conducting youth group Sunday evening with a particular live streaming service. Teens, please keep looking on your social media platforms and The HUB for ways you can join the online fun & lesson.
- **BOOST:** At this point, we have decided to continue with Boost on Wednesday because each study has around 20 friends attending (which is below the Governor's gathering threshold). However, due to containment concerns, we will NOT be offering dinner until further notice. Please use your best judgement on whether or not you should attend Boost.

- **LIFE GROUPS:** We are asking each Life Group Leader to determine what their group should do for upcoming gatherings. Pastor Mike will be in touch with them regarding how to determine their plans. Check in with your leader for more information about your next gathering.
- **CHURCH EVENTS:** Check out our church calendar for updates regarding various church events. As things transpire, we will respond to each event.
- **OPPORTUNITIES:** I hope you will see this as an opportunity to experience church together with healthy friends and family! You may want to invite others to your home or gather in small groups to view ministries together. Pray that God will lead you in ways that you can BE THE CHURCH even when you can't be IN the church and to effectively "love your neighbor."

Our leadership believes that these decisions are the best that we can make at this moment. Since this is a rapidly evolving situation, we are already considering many options for the weeks ahead and will keep everyone informed as we move forward. In the meantime, here are some things to note & keep in mind:

- **APPRECIATION:** First, we want to thank Tanya Bell, our church custodian, for all her hard work all year long to clean and disinfect our building. Our nursery and toddler volunteers also go above and beyond to clean the toys your children play with each Sunday & Wednesday! Thank you to all who help out!
- **BE VIGILANT:** As we move forward, remember the best practices to keep yourself healthy & safe – stay calm, frequently wash your hands, limit contact to your face, use antibacterial sanitizer, cover coughs & sneezes with tissue or elbow/sleeve, and stay home when you are sick.
- **THINK OF OTHERS:** While this current virus outbreak only seriously impacts a certain percentage of our population, the majority of people have little to be overly concerned about. *This understanding can give a false sense of safety.* Healthy people can carry COVID-19 to our most vulnerable friends. So, in light of this, always think of others as you go into public places or gather with others.
- **LEARN:** Visit [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) for a further list of practices and limitations in order to protect you and your loved ones from any kind of exposure to COVID-19 and less serious seasonal bugs that are out there!

Our staff is also working on a couple initiatives to assist families impacted by this world-wide pandemic. We cannot only focus on Flushing Community Church but also proactively take an interest in those most vulnerable around us. Our response will

convey the transforming love of God to those who need to experience it! Some of our response will be as a church – and some of it will take place organically in your home as you generously respond to the needs you become aware of.

We just received a call asking for such help from Flushing Schools. So, beginning Monday, March 16, our parking lot will be a distribution location (1 of 4) for Flushing Community Schools to distribute sack lunches to children. If you or a family you know of can benefit from this, please spread the word. Details about this lunch distribution will come directly from Flushing Schools – we are simply a distribution site at this time.

If you have any questions about our policies and efforts, or if you have ideas on how we can tangibly make a difference in our community, please contact a member of our staff. Let us not stray away from our faith into fear or even finger pointing during these hard times, "for the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Pastor Terry