

Dear Church of the Good Shepherd Family,

Many, perhaps most, have been following closely the news and the constant developments of actions being taken world-wide in response to the coronavirus. In the span of a few hours, just today, we have seen the responses on the part of our government, state, schools, hospitals, and other emergency agencies vamping up at an alarming rate. We continue to be prayerful to know what our responses must be to care for the people of our church and community and seek God's leadership and intervention in a growing crisis. The leadership and Church Council have come to a decision based on information updates from our Eastern PA Conference Bishop Peggy Johnson, The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, The Conference Disaster Relief Team (Dwain Hostetter from Good Shepherd representing our area), Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and his team, The Centers for Disease Control, members of the medical and educational institutions in our area, and conversation with the Staff of the Church that:

1. All Church services will be cancelled for 2 weeks.

There will be no Sunday services or Sunday School for 3/15/2020 and 3/22/2020

Pastor AL and the worship team will plan to create a Sunday Service Video –

which will be available on the website for all capable of that medium to view.

2. The Congregation will be notified in the following manner:

Email Blast;

Notice will be put on the Church Website;

A message will be on voicemail on the office phone for those who call in;

Person to person sharing as people talk with family, neighbors, and friends.

3. All meetings and weekly events will be postponed for this 2 week period.

4. The Church Office will remain open during this time with most staff working remotely.

Approaching the end of the 2 week period, the church council will revisit this situation and make a determination as to how we move forward. We pray that proactive steps now will adjust the course ahead.

Several thoughts those enduring this letter...

We are not cancelling Church. YOU are the church and we're not giving up on that church. It is the church, you, that will have the opportunity to both lead with compassion, peace, faith, and prayer. We will not be holding Church worship services TOGETHER, but we believe all will continue to worship in our homes, intercede on behalf of the world before God, and gather at the throne of God's grace in His Spirit. In a time when it seems that social distancing is prudent to help alter the course of this epidemic, everyone is encouraged to be mindful of opportunities to check on some of those who are most vulnerable. Give a call to check in on your elderly neighbors, friends, or family. If you don't know them, what a great time to reach out. You may be aware of some people whose lives are being affected by changes in their work, the ability to attend important functions for their well-being, or by the stress of the uncertainties in their own life and across the world. A kind, trusting, listening ear and encouraging spirit may be just what God is bringing to them through you. Pray for them and if possible pray with them.

We will attempt to keep you informed of any further updates as we seek your prayers for the leadership as we seek God's direction day by day.

~Pastor AL and the Church of the Good Shepherd Leadership.  
(via GoogleGroups/MailChimp)

