

1 April 2020

Dear Church Family:

This week has brought even more changes to the coronavirus situation in Maryland with which we are dealing. You have no-doubt seen that Governor Hogan has amended his executive order to now include a "Stay-At-Home Order." This means that Maryland residents have been instructed to stay in their homes EXCEPT for essential activities. Those essential activities have been outlined in the executive order, but there has also been clarification given through other documents that have been released.

What does this mean for us here at the church? Well, several things:

1. Bonnie Kirkley (our office manager) and I are still coming into the church office daily as we are permitted to do so "for the purpose of engaging in minimal operations." Other staff members are doing the majority of their work from home and coming to the church building only as necessary.
2. Our online services will continue, but with a bit of a different look. As a church, we are taking the governor's executive order seriously, so we do not want to gather the group of people that is necessary to have a full Worship Team and A/V crew. We want to do our part to minimize the spread of the virus. So, Pastor Jesse is going to record a few worship songs for us from his home, and I am going to record my message here at the church. Our A/V team will edit the video and audio into a nice (but simple) package. It will be ready to view by 9:30 AM Sunday morning. We are hoping that as many as possible will watch it from their homes at 10:00 AM Sunday morning.
3. Pastor Jesse is working on a format for Adult Bible Classes to be held online with opportunity for interaction among those participating. The details are not yet all worked out, so stand by for further instruction.
4. We will not be able to meet at the church for our annual Good Friday service, but Pastor Jesse is going to put something together and lead us from his home that evening. It may be a bit later in the evening to allow parents to get their younger kids to bed, but we will give you the details as they come together.
5. We will not be able to meet at the church building for Easter Sunday. This is quite disappointing, but God is good, and He will bless us as He sees fit. Again, none of this has surprised Him and He will sustain us through it all. With God's help, we can certainly be flexible in these unique days.
6. We still want to be aware of what is happening in your lives, both the good and the "challenging." Please, please, PLEASE – if you have any needs that we might be able to meet during this time, don't hesitate to let us know. We can certainly pray, and several have already contacted me with prayer requests. We are happy to pray for specific needs.
7. I hate to bring up the "O-word," but your offerings are still vital to the ongoing operations of Grace Bible Chapel. MANY THANKS to those who have given online or sent in your offering checks to the church office – please feel free to continue to do so (please don't send cash to the church, though)!

As I said above, we are trying to be good neighbors by holding to the Governor's executive orders. We held our last Board meeting via video conferencing and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. We have begun to do the same with our weekly staff meetings as well. I hope you, too, will do your part to slow the spread of this terrible virus by staying home except for essential activities.

I love each one of you and miss seeing you on Sundays. It will be a JOYOUS reunion when we get the "all-clear" and are able to come together under one roof for corporate worship. Until then, stay in the Word, pray for each other, and watch out for each other. May the Lord keep you all healthy and safe as you walk with Him.

Joyfully in Jesus,

--Wayne

Rev. Wayne Heffelfinger
Senior Pastor
Grace Bible Chapel
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Worship songs this past Sunday:

1. Raise A Hallelujah
2. Living Hope
3. Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me
4. Way Maker

GBC KIDS MINISTRY PAGE - Parents, we now have a GBC KIDS MINISTRY Facebook page you can join. We will be posting some lessons there and we are working on a Bible story video challenge along with some other good information. You can simply search GBC KIDS Ministry to join the group or send an email to Allyson Zanes at azanes@gracebiblechapel.org to join. (word this any way you like). Here is a link to the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/830953860681298/>

Kids Ministry Needs - Kids Ministry is looking to restock frequently used items. Items can be left in the orange bin in the foyer marked Kids Ministry Donation items. We will be collecting until the end of March. For those of you who don't work directly with our GBC children but would like to help in some way, here's a good opportunity.

- Pipe cleaners
- Small glue sticks
- Paper towels
- Crayons

- Pencils
- Whiteboard markers or cleaner
- Markers
- Construction paper

Free Book - The Case for Easter, get your copy at the information counter. Lee Strobel, investigative legal journalist and former atheist examines the claims for Jesus' resurrection. Do we know it really happened? The evidence confirms Jesus was the Son of God who arose from the grave; it changed Strobel's life. Give a copy to a friend, it may change their life.