



REDEEMER

—CHURCH, PCA—

P.O. Box 2014

Sylva, NC 28779

828.586.5811

www.redeemersylva.org

March 20, 2020

Dear Redeemer Family and Friends,

The past several weeks have been very eventful as the Coronavirus has spread and caused many issues for people all over the world. This situation is constantly changing, and its effects are being experienced tangibly by us all. These effects are having a profound impact on our families, ourselves, our community, and our church family as well. These effects include the following:

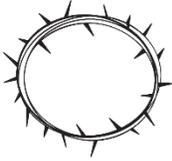
- Physical- Many have contracted this disease, and sadly some have died from it. As of the writing of this letter, there has been 10,442 reported cases here in the U.S. and 150 of those have resulted in death.
- Spiritual- Many churches, including ours, will be closing their doors for a period of time in an attempt to prevent the spread of the disease.
- Financial- The stock market has taken huge losses, businesses are having to greatly reduce their services or close all together, and many are struggling during this time.
- Emotional and Relational- As people self-isolate, many are facing loneliness and possibly depression.

As followers of Christ, what should be our response? We need to remember the goodness and power of our God and King, and grow in our daily dependence upon Him. In Psalm 103 David reflects on the character of God, His provision, His healing of diseases, His forgiveness of our sins, and the temporal nature of humanity versus the eternal nature of God. David writes:

“As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; ¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. ¹⁷But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. ¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.” Psalm 103: 15-19

As difficult as this situation is, it is a wonderful opportunity for us all to remember the greatness of our God and King, and daily lean on Him for all of our needs: spiritual, physical, relational, and emotional. This is also a wonderful time to put God on display in our lives as we love and serve our neighbors, our co-workers, and even each other in Christ's name. Moving forward, what can you expect from Redeemer Church?

The following are steps the Session of Redeemer Church is taking during this difficult time.



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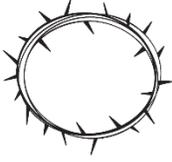
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1. All church related activities, including Sunday worship, are cancelled for one month: March 20-April 17, 2020.
2. Other churches are planning to livestream a worship service but with no congregation physically present. We are not going to livestream ourselves, but are looking at various options and will pick one we recommend to you. The Session asks that you gather your family to watch this livestream and participate on Sunday. We do not believe this is the ideal for worship but it can be a wise temporary substitute for gathering together and give us a form of collective experience.
3. There will be three emails sent out weekly from the church. You can expect these emails every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday during this monthly period. The purpose of these emails is spiritual encouragement, keeping you informed and updated on the situation, and will also include ways you can serve and pray for others during this time.
4. In addition to these emails we will also communicate through our website, and the church's Facebook page. Please check these for the latest information.
5. The Elders and Deacons are partnering together to weekly reach out to you and your families. Please let us know if there are any needs you and your family have; we are here to shepherd and serve you in our Savior's name. If you need to reach us, here is how you can do so:
 - Pastor Steven Hansen: (813) 784-0367...steven@redeemersylva.org
 - Elder Lee Nickles (828) 399-1657...lee.nickles@gmail.com
 - Elder Bobby Wilson (863) 660-2628...roberte.wilson@cemex.com
 - Deacon Griffin Johnson (770) 605-3631...griffinphillipjohnson@gmail.com
 - Deacon Nathan Shepherd (828) 412-1140...nkshepherd1872@gmail.com
6. We are considering having some online activities. For example, the men's breakfast will be organized to have a Zoom online session where we can have some fellowship and pray for each other. You can expect details for this and other potential opportunities via the weekly email updates.
7. If you desire, you can mail a check for tithe and offering to the following address:

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You may find the following websites helpful during this time.

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

This webpage from the Centers for Disease Control has the latest updates and information on the Coronavirus. We would encourage you to check it regularly.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronaviruses%2F2019-ncov%2Fpreparing-individuals-communities.html

This webpage from the Centers for Disease Control includes recommendations for preventing the spread of the Coronavirus in homes, educational settings, workplaces, churches, and large gatherings.

Please know that the Session, the Diaconate, and I are praying for you and your families. If you have any questions, any needs, or any prayer requests please let us know. We love you all dearly and want to serve you well in Jesus' name. Many of you have reached out to me already with a desire to help others: I cannot tell you enough how encouraging that is and I will let you know of needs as I learn of them. My encouragement and challenge to us all is to daily go to Jesus. He alone has the words of life and can and does lead His people every step of the way.

Blessings,

Pastor Steven