

Dear Redeemer Family,

I hope and pray that you all are staying healthy and hopeful in the gospel despite all that is going on in our country at the moment. We praise God that he is in control and is reigning from his throne in heaven. We have a comfort both in life and in death. We are not our own but have been bought with a price, the precious blood of Christ.

Your Elders met last night and discussed how we can best move forward as a church in this most unusual time. We have been in communications with other pastors and church leaders in our own and other denominations, as well as tried to stay up to date with the latest information coming from governmental agencies. As a church it is our desire to both honor God and love our neighbor as we respond to the Corona virus.

At this point, the session has taken the following actions.

- **We have indefinitely suspended all non-essential church gatherings and ministry meetings.** This includes Sunday School, prayer meetings, Wednesday night studies, Men's bible study, the men's conference, and Women's Bible studies. Community groups can discuss if they want to continue to meet during this time, but should make sure if they do they follow all the recommended health guidelines. We encourage all non-essential church meetings to be cancelled or moved to a virtual platform.

- **For this Sunday, we will not have a public service at the church.** Instead, there will be a modified service that will be streamed through our new website on Sunday morning. We are asking that all of our members participate by streaming the service from your home. If you are able and healthy, we would cautiously encourage you to gather in community with others from the church in smaller groups to participate in the service together. Access for the streaming will be off of the sermon section of our new website, www.redeemerc.org/sermons
We are taking these actions because we take what is going on in our country seriously and want to do our best to not facilitate the spread of the virus in our church or community. Our denomination has put out guidance to the effect that: *Every church should seriously consider the advice and requests of local, state, and federal health officials. If they ask churches to not assemble, your elders should take their counsel into serious consideration for the good of your neighbor.* In that spirit we believe that while very undesirable, not having a public meeting for this week is the best course of action to take in a bad situation. Similar actions are being taken by other PCA churches in our presbytery and denomination.

Over the next few weeks, as we will be more separated from one another than normal, it is extremely important that we do our best to stay in the Word and in fellowship in the ways that we can. I want to encourage us to be reaching out to one another intentionally by phone, text, etc. Check in on each other. Let's get through this season together. Also, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself, pastor Chris, or Tim Schramm as needs arise due to the virtual shutdown of our city. We have already had several congregational members who have volunteered their time to help out wherever there is a need in our congregation, whether it be shopping, errands, childcare, etc. Don't hesitate to ask.

Additionally, there are real needs in our broader community as a result of the fallout from this virus that we will keep you posted on if you are available to help. I will forward out later an email from Single Momm asking for those who would be able to help support single mom's in the community. We have already had one member involved in going to the grocery store in order to help out. If you have desire and opportunity to do this, you can connect with them directly.

That is all for now, we will send out more updates as needed. Stay on the lookout for a couple of podcasts from Pastors Scott and Chris later this week.

Blessings

-Pastor Scott