

Hello, again Meadows family,

After I sent the email earlier today, I was informed by two additional people who attended church on Sunday that they received positive COVID test results today. I've also learned of two others who are experiencing symptoms and are awaiting test results. These cases do not seem related.

Information like this is unsettling and can cause a variety of emotions. Let's continue to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author, and finisher of our faith, believing that he will build our faith through this. Pray for those who are sick, pray for the unity of our fellowship, pray for our physical and spiritual protection.

I also understand this information can cause inconvenience. Some will need to inform employers or schools. Schedules may have to be adjusted, and plans changed. Some may need to wait for hours to get tested. I grieve the inconveniences this may cause, and at the same time, I encourage GRACE. Grace is the kindness and sufficiency of Christ for us to get through this well. God has lavished His grace on us; let's generously extend it to each other.

I also understand that others may get sick. I pray against this, and I encourage care. There will be opportunities to meet each other's needs. It is challenging to maintain privacy and be able to offer help. In this week's chapter of the *Alongsider* book, chapter 5, there is a discussion of transparency and vulnerability. "Transparency is a willingness to expose my struggles, fears, and life issues inside the safety of a friendship. Vulnerability does more than share needs or hurts. It invites people into my life to help support, encourage, or correct in times of need." These days are an opportunity to grow in friendship leading to transparency and vulnerability. If you need help at this time, please reach out and allow others to support you.

We will do our best to keep you informed while also maintaining the privacy of those who are sick. We are asking the people with confirmed cases to notify anyone they interacted with directly. If they were present in gatherings outside of the Sunday service, we'll inform the leaders of those gatherings and ask them to make sure that those in their group are aware of the situation.

Moving our gatherings online until November 15th is the best way to protect against spread within our church. Again, I encourage you to be involved in those virtual gatherings. Let me also encourage all of us to guard against speculation and undue curiosity. Instead of figuring out the details of this situation, let's have conversations about Jesus, His great faithfulness, His Word and His work in our lives. Let's encourage each other to pray and build one another up in love.

God is at work!

--- Pastor Andrew