



March 12, 2020

Coronavirus and Church Plans

In light of the continued spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we wanted to keep you updated on how we are processing this and planning for potential situations that could arise. While we know there are various perspectives on the severity of this, we have and will continue to monitor and follow CDC, DHEC, and state officials for updates, recommendations, and guidelines. At this point, there have been no suggestions for churches in our area to cancel services. So, we will continue our normal weekend events as planned.

If for some reason we have to cancel one or more services in the future, here's what you could expect:

- **Teaching:** We have a wealth of sermons available to us through our audio and video sermons posted on SermonAudio. For any Sundays that are canceled, Pastor Conley will be recommending a sermon previously preached at HPBC that we can watch/listen to on Sundays, so that we are all still receiving the same teaching. We would then resume the Romans series as soon as we begin meeting together again.
- **Connection:** For our members, our Elexio app is a great way to stay in contact with other members for any weeks that we are not able to meet together. You can easily text and email other members through the app, and we would encourage you to utilize this if we are not able to see one another in person. Furthermore, LifeGroup leaders and Sunday School teachers can use this to stay in contact with their classes/groups. If you are a member and do not yet have access to this valuable resource, now would be a great time to pursue it. If you need help, contact our church office.
- **Giving:** One of the obvious effects of not meeting together is that we would not be able to give as we do when gathered. We are blessed to have access to online giving, and we would encourage you to continue your normal patterns of giving, utilizing the online resources available to you. You may give through our website at www.hamptonpark.org/give. Giving is also available through our Elexio app for members. Instructions for giving on the app are available for [Android](#) and [iPhone](#).
- **Smaller Gatherings (LifeGroups, Ladies' Bible Study, etc.):** We will keep you posted on how we plan to handle any smaller gatherings of members. Again, we plan to follow guidelines given to us. But we may make some decisions ourselves as well, communicating those to you as they are made.
- **Communication:** We will plan to stay in communication with you during the time of any cancellations so that you are well aware of our plans.

For now, since we plan to continue services as normal, we want to encourage you in the following ways:

- **Attendance:** If you have symptoms of a fever (without medication for 24 hours), vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory illness or other severe illness prior to a Sunday service, please show love to others and spend the day recovering at home on Sunday. We are blessed to have livestream as an option, and we look forward to having you back with us soon. If you are susceptible to sickness due to your age or other factors, we would especially encourage you to consider using the gift of livestream during this time. For any elderly who still choose to attend, we gladly welcome you.
- **Good Health Practices:** As mentioned last week during the morning worship, we encourage you to use good judgment in the way you interact with others on Sundays. This is a practical way for us to love one another while attempting to reduce the spread of germs. Increased hand-washing, fist-bumping/shoulder-patting are widely viewed as appropriate ways to decrease the spread of sicknesses.
- **Offering:** In addition, beginning this Sunday (and for a limited time), we will not pass offering plates around during the services. Rather, we will have ushers available at each auditorium exit as the services end to collect any financial gifts you choose to contribute. We also see this as a practical way to reduce the spread of germs during this time.

In situations like this, our world tends towards extremes, like scoffing on the one hand or panic on the other hand. God has given us great comfort in the knowledge of his sovereignty and control. So, we have no reason to panic. God has also called us to actively love one another and those around us. So, we have no reason to scoff. Rather, we can move forward in full trust of God's sovereignty, using all of our available means to serve one another in love. Please join us in this!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We look forward to seeing many of you this Sunday.

Ben Fetterolf
Pastor for Administration

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