



March 15, 2020

Coronavirus and Church Plans

As you likely have observed, the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) is an active and ever-changing situation. In today's press conference, Governor McMaster closed all SC schools through the end of March and "strongly recommended" no public gatherings over 100 people. The HPBC pastoral body met tonight and concluded that the wisest course of action would be for us to cancel all church-related events through the end of March. This includes regularly scheduled events (such as Sunday AM and PM gatherings, Sunday School, LifeGroups, prayer meetings, and Ladies' Bible Study) as well as special events scheduled through the end of March (such as the Ladies' Brunch, Grief Share, LifeGroup Leader's Meeting, etc.). The pastoral body will meet again on March 29 to discuss our plans moving forward at that point, taking into consideration any new information on the virus as well as any further recommendations from state or health officials.

I'm sure you may have questions after reading all of that. Please be patient with us as we work through logistics over the next several days. We will continue to communicate with you regarding plans, postponements, and further ways to remain connected with each other while not gathering together for at least the next two Sundays. We hope to be creative in continuing to connect with one another in ways that are healthy during this time. Be assured that we plan to keep in contact with you and will work to minister well even from a distance. If you have needs that arise, do not hesitate to contact us. Our office will continue to be open for the time being, and our pastors and deacons are eager to meet any needs that you have. In the next day or two, we plan to send out a survey to find out who would be willing to help run errands for those who may need to remain at home due to sickness, pregnancy, or vulnerability to sickness. This is a time when we as a church want to especially look out for the vulnerable.

Tonight, we rejoice that we have an anchor for our souls. May you look to him and find rest both tonight and throughout this next week.

Grace to you,

Ben Fetterolf (for the HPBC Pastors)

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