

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. SERVE THE WORLD.

Dear Chapel Family,

Well, this has been quite a week! As you know, the situation with the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is fluid and changing rapidly. While God has not given us a spirit of fear, He has called us to love our neighbors and to contribute to the welfare of our community. Exercising caution is not only wise, but it is a tangible way of expressing love toward others.

Out of our love for the Chapel family and concern for the health and safety of the congregation, we will not be gathering at Lincoln Park, Montclair and Wayne for this Sunday, March 15 or next Sunday, March 22. We will be extending our Online Campus to include the classic service at 8:45am, and modern services at 10:00am and 11:15am, and we encourage you to worship at home with your family, friends or small group.

This was a very difficult decision for us, but we have been guided by two very important factors: (1) Honoring our governing officials and (2) loving our neighbors, especially those who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

We are also suspending all onsite activities effective immediately and through the end of March. This includes Chapel Women, MOPS, Kid City, and any small groups that meet on our campuses. This is not a complete list, so be looking for additional communications from your small group or ministry leaders. We've asked the staff to begin moving many of our ministry activities online, and next week we'll be sending more information about how you can access resources for Chapel Kids, Chapel Students, Small Groups and more online.

At this time, the Chapel office will remain open during regular office hours (9AM-4PM) for those needing care and support during this time.

As a church family, here's what we can do in the meantime:

1. Pray

- Pray that God will intervene and stop the spread of this global pandemic.
- Pray for those who have already been affected by the coronavirus.
- Pray for the ones who are caring for those affected by this disease.
- Pray that we all would represent Jesus well to those around us, especially in the weeks and months to come.

2. Join our Online Campus this Sunday morning. We'll take a break from the Kingdom Come series so that Pastor Dave can bring a special message for these anxious times. You can join our Classic Service at 8:45am, or one of our Modern Services at 10:00am

Lincoln Park

or 11:15am. Pastor John Dere will be available at all services to greet you online, answer your questions, and take prayer requests.

3. Gather with your family and friends to pray, encourage one another, and worship together.

4. Reach out to your neighbors and be a blessing to those who are experiencing unusual hardship because of this disease.

5. We so appreciate the generosity of The Chapel family. You can continue to give your tithes and offerings online at <u>thechapel.org</u> or through the mail.

6. Share your faith in Christ! People are fearful right now. It's understandable that people are anxious, but we as Christians can take comfort in knowing that God is in control. We can have peace during these times because He is sovereign over everything. People are more open to spiritual conversations when life is uncertain, so bring them the comfort of the Gospel.

Finally, remember that WE are the church, and nothing will ever change that. The coronavirus is another opportunity for us to show the world how and why we trust Jesus especially in dark times.

We'll be reaching out to you again soon, and you can find updates at <u>www.thechapel.org</u>.

Serving with you, Pastor Dave and Pastor Ted