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Loving God and Loving our Neighbor during the Corona Virus Outbreak

Dear Gateway Church Old Brooklyn Family,

In response to the CDC's announcement this past Sunday to restrict gatherings of 50 or more persons, the closure of numerous industries, and based on continuing instruction from government officials, **Gateway Church has decided to cancel all Sunday services and all church activities until further notice.** This includes community groups, men's and women's ministries, and game nights.

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. We are grateful for our government giving guidance to its people.

While the normal pattern and pace of our lives is being transformed, we ask that you remember our faith in Jesus Christ has given us an unshakeable hope. Our salvation in Jesus Christ has not been changed, nor has his command to live in a manner worthy of his calling upon our lives. As has been said, "We need to trust an unknown future to our known God."

Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul in **Philippians 2:12-13**, "*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*" Nothing will ever snatch us from our eternal security in Jesus Christ, and equally so, nothing will ever thwart God's ongoing work in our lives and in our world.

Below are ways that we both ask and exhort you to continue in the faith:

Receive Life:

1. Daily Bible Reading & Prayer. As you stay informed by the news, so also be sure that the voice of God's truth is ringing loudly in your heart.
2. Holding fast in faith to the promises of the gospel.
3. Set aside time for Family Worship in song, prayer, and scripture reading.
4. We encourage you to use resources like the Jesus Story Book Bible to read with your children daily. **Beth will be reaching out to our families with a gospel lesson & activity each week.**

Share Life: *This is the complicated one these days*

1. View our FB Live Sunday Services OR (if you don't have FB) Listen to that week's sermon on our website (gatewaychurcholdbrooklyn.com)
2. Check In With One Another & regularly encourage the people that are in your community group
3. **As you are able, please continue to give to the church.** This has always been an act of worship to our Lord & it helps us to continue being the hands & feet of Jesus. You can give in the following ways: Online at <http://gatewaychurcholdbrooklyn.com/giving/>, or mail check or cash to

Gateway Church Old Brooklyn, 4542 Pearl Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109, or bring Check or Cash to the church building in an envelope clearly addressed to Gateway Church Old Brooklyn & put in the mail box slot at the side doors of the building.

Bring Life:

1. Be intentional in how you can share the love of Christ with your families, friends, & neighbors in this time.
2. Pray for them. Pray with them. Share the Scriptures with them in a way that points them to faith in Jesus Christ. Share the toilet paper & the hand sanitizer, and most importantly share the hope & peace you have in Christ.

Please let us know if you yourself have needs. We are a church FAMILY, we want to help you in any way possible. We have food in our food pantry. We have a few folks willing & able to run errands for those most at risk with this virus.

We will continue to monitor the situation and give you updates as necessary. We strongly encourage you to follow our government leaders instructions in this time. We have been praying for each of you and trust that you have been praying for us as well. And again, let's be faithful in seeking the Lord in prayer and daily following His call upon our lives.

Tony Loseto and Mike Loseto

Elders of Gateway Church Old Brooklyn

March 16, 2020.

Isaiah 41:10