

March 13, 2020

Dear Grace Family,

The elders and I are keeping up with the developing Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and wanted share our perspective and plans for the church. The uncertainty of this outbreak is creating nervousness in many people throughout the world. As Christians, we remain confident of God's steadfast providence and sovereign oversight in all that is happening. We are sure that God wants us all to be reasonable in our precautions, but not lose sight of the larger reality of what it means to trust God in all things.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC): Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. **If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should: STAY HOME**, cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Call and notify your healthcare provider. Please remember that we live stream our services on Facebook so if you must stay home join us for worship in the comfort of your home.

At Grace, we will continue to operate as normal and will monitor the spread of the virus. We will follow recommendations from the CDC and Alabama Department of Public Health. We ask that if you become ill or are diagnosed with the virus that you stay home and please notify us that you have tested positive.

We will continue to provide hand sanitizer at different locations. We encourage you to wash your hands thoroughly. Before each church service and meeting, we will disinfect surfaces. Also, we feel it best not to have snacks laid out on Sunday morning and we will do communion differently as well. Rather than pull bread from the loaf, there will be individual pieces of bread for each person to pick up.

If anything changes, we will let you know. For now, we will follow these precautions, and we encourage everyone to be in prayer for those who are affected by the sickness, as well as those who are working so hard to combat it. We appreciate each of you and your commitment to Grace!

All of grace,

Pastor Bill