

Covid 19 Update – March 12, 2020

As we continue to hear about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), we're writing to make sure you know that Cherry Hills continues to monitor the situation closely. Cases have been reported in Central Illinois and we're staying up-to-date and paying attention to recommendations from medical professionals in our church family, other church leaders, and national, state, and local health officials.

With that in mind, we are cancelling all activities on campus the weekend of March 14th and 15th, including our Sunday morning services, the Membership Class and Senior High programming. In addition, all activities are cancelled on Wednesday, March 18th, including Life Groups, classes, youth activities and childcare.

We are committed to pursuing life together with one another and our community. Something special happens when we gather to lift up the name of Jesus, learn together from His Word and pray for each other. It's not an exaggeration to say it's one of the highlights of our week. However, because we love you, and because we love our friends, neighbors and community, we are following the recommendations from our local, trusted medical professionals.

In light of this decision, we would like to offer several thoughts on how we can practice the way of Jesus during this time and continue to do life together.

- Gather online this Sunday, March 15th at 9:30. As we have learned in our current teaching series, the early church was committed to gathering together (Acts 2:46). Essential staff and volunteers will Live Stream the service this Sunday and we encourage you to gather as a family, friends or a small group for worship. We urge you to join us online at <https://cherryhillfamily.org/stream>.
- Let's be a people of prayer. In Philippians 4:6-7, the apostle Paul urges us not to be anxious, but to pray about everything, so we can know His peace. Join us in praying for those diagnosed, for medical professionals, for countries around the world affected by this virus, for the many individuals struggling financially due to the economic impact of COVID-19.
- Don't overreact or underreact. 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment." We did not make the decision to cancel activities this weekend out of fear, but out of respect and responsibility. We encourage you to stay informed, but please use sound judgment when you read information or check for updates. Social media can be inaccurate, and can often contribute to over-anxiety and panic. For reliable information, we suggest you visit the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)

- Continue doing Life Together. We're blessed to live in a time where we can stay connected even when we are physically apart. For those of you in a small group, get creative in how you stay connected. Text, call, FaceTime, both those within our family and those outside our walls. Let's be a beacon of light and hope in our community. Times like these provide opportunities to care and demonstrate His love.

We will continue to communicate through text, email, our website and social media. We have made no decisions concerning Sunday, March 22nd and will provide updates as they are available. We also want to thank you for your consistent giving so we can carry out the mission of our church.

If you have any specific questions, please reply to this email and we will do our best to respond. Please know there may be a delayed response as we are working as hard as we can to make changes for this weekend.

In His grace and in His power,
Cherry Hills Leadership