



WASHINGTON STREET — CHURCH OF CHRIST —

A Statement from our Shepherds

Dear Church Family,

These are interesting times. We want you to know that serving God and remaining in his will is of utmost importance to us. In light of our desire to do God's will, we want you to know that the safety and health of our members is of utmost concern to each of us as well. We love every member of this congregation and we believe Jesus' admonition to "love our neighbor" means that we need to take very seriously the possible risk associated with gathering in large numbers during this current Covid-19 threat.

We have been in conversation and prayer over the last several days considering what we should do to adjust our meeting schedule in light of recommendations from the CDC and other knowledgeable sources. After long discussion and many prayers, we have decided to cancel the Sunday morning service this Sunday (Mar 22) and for at least the next two weeks (March 29th and April 5th). Wednesday night classes will be canceled for the next two weeks (March 25th and April 1st) as well. We encourage you to gather in small groups (preferably of less than 10 according to CDC guidance) or with your family during this time for worship. We are putting together a plan to assist you with this. We also want you to know that we are all available to you should any need arise within our church family.

We pray this will be an opportunity for everyone to join us in service to one another and the community.

Here is our present plan, and what we can do to continue worshipping and being the church as we gather in small groups and in homes.

Again, there will be no Bible classes or worship services at the building beginning Sunday, Mar 22 and until Sunday, April 12. Instead, we encourage you to gather in small groups or with your families for worship at home and ***continue being the church!***

Continue to Worship ("Whenever two or three of you are gathered....." cf. Matt 18:20)

- We certainly want to ensure we offer an opportunity for everyone to be able to worship each Sunday in accordance with God's Word.
- Jim will continue bringing a message each Sunday which we will be pushing out thru Facebook, YouTube, our website (www.wscoc.net) and we are looking into other possible outlets.
- Communion supplies (prepared carefully & in sanitary conditions) will be available for you and your family to pick up at the church building beginning Saturday from 11am -2pm and again on Sunday morning from 9am – 10am. These will be available on a table under the portico by the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. A recipe to make your own communion bread is attached to this e-mail. Songbooks, too, will be available should you want to take a few home for a family worship.

- If you are not comfortable with or able to get out, please call the office or Jim at 931-993-3246 and communion will be delivered to your home. If you'd like to volunteer to assist with this, please reply to this e-mail or call Jim.

Continue to Serve

- We are also asking all of our Deacons and Service Group leaders to check on each and every member of their respective groups. We are asking for a report of the results of these efforts to the Shepherds. In these difficult times this will take a lot of effort. We want to account for every member of our congregation during this time as well as those who have been visiting with us. This is a starting point for a more comprehensive plan to be developed over the coming days. We will be increasing our online messaging and letting you know of prayer needs within the congregation thru e-mail.

Continue to Share

- Please be a light to those church family members that live near you and your neighbors. Check on them by phone and meet their needs. If you cannot, please contact us and we will do our best to see that those needs are met.
- We also want to remind you of the financial needs which continue and may even increase as benevolent needs in the community rise. We encourage you to mail your contribution to the church office at PO Box 324, Fayetteville, TN 37334 or send it through your online banking.

We believe this is an opportunity, despite the challenges, to be the church and to take care of one another in even greater ways and we hope you will take advantage of every opportunity to love your neighbor through these unusual times. Please understand, these decisions were not made hastily or without lots of discussion and prayers.

- *Your Elders*