

March 18, 2020

Dear Grace Hill Church Family,

With sadness, yet not without hope, the Elders of Grace Hill Church have made the decision to suspend all church services until further notice. Our current situation is changing every day, and we will monitor closely and announce a date to meet again when it is safe to do so. We have done this for a couple of reasons. First, Governor Evers has mandated that churches not gather together, and that gatherings should not exceed 10 people. Romans 13.1 teaches us to be subject to those governing authorities God has put over us. We are in a public health crisis, and these steps are reasonable to minimize the spread of the C...V (I'm not able to use the proper term—because when I do my email rejects what I send to a large blind email list). This request is for our good. Secondly, not meeting together is an expression of love and care for our members and our neighbors. None of us want to be the one who infects others unawares. Join me in praying for our governing authorities (I Timothy 2.1-7) and for one another (Ephesians 6.18), that we may live lives in ways that reflect the character of Christ for the praise of God's glory (Ephesians 1.12, 14).

Having said that, I'm also convinced that God will use this for good in our lives (Romans 8.28-29). We don't stop being the church. Jesus taught us that we worship in spirit and truth, not at the "temple" (John 4.23). Each of you will be an important part of caring for our church family, and for others that God brings across our path.

So, with the very strength Christ gives us by His Spirit, would you join us in giving yourself faithfully to the following:

- Do not be undone by Fear. God is our refuge and strength. The God of Jacob is our fortress. *"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth!"* (Psalm 46.10).
 - Be diligent in your walk with the Lord.
 - Read and meditate on the Word and pray daily as an individual
 - Gather as a family to read and pray
 - Encourage one another to trust the Lord together

- Love and Care for one another. *"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"* (John 13.35).
 - Call one or more people from the church family each day to talk, pray, and encourage. If you need a church directory please let Elaine Meissner know: gracehilloffice@gmail.com
 - As you learn of needs, seek to meet those needs, and/or communicate those needs with your Small Group Leader, Deacons, and/or Elders.
 - We invite you to join the "Grace Hill Church" Facebook page that Elaine Meissner is monitoring. When you find the Grace Hill Church FB page, look for the Group called

“Church Family”, and ask to join. This page is “closed” to the public, and will be only for church members and regular attenders. We are doing this so it’s a safe place to keep in touch with other church members. If you have any problems with this, please contact Elaine at (262) 623-0736.

- Pray for one another. *“...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints...”* (Ephesians 6.18).
 - Pastor Darrel will send out via email weekly prayer requests so you know how to pray.
 - Please Let Pastor know how we can pray for you, and he will add you to our prayer list if you would like.

- Reach out to neighbors. Care for those God brings across your path (see Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10.25-37).
 - Call your neighbors
 - Help and encourage your neighbors
 - Pray with your neighbors

- Continue to Worship the Lord in spirit and in truth:
 - While the Church will not gather together for worship, we will continue to worship as we make much of Christ in how we care for one another.
 - **We plan to Stream a Sermon Video each week. We plan, Lord-willing, to put a link to the Sermon on the homepage of our website (www.gracehillmerton.com) each Sunday morning.** As needed we will also send out additional information.
 - If you are certain that you are healthy, consider gathering with another healthy family for fellowship, worship, prayer, and to watch the Sermon Video together.
 - We encourage you to listen to good Christ-exalting music throughout the week. As an example, several of my favorite Pandora Radio Stations include: Indelible Grace, Doxology, Getty Music, Sovereign Grace Music, Stuart Townend, Sandra McCracken, Ellie Holcomb, Matt Boswell, etc. There are many others as well.

- We encourage you to be faithful in Regular Giving, as you normally do (II Corinthians 9.6-15). You can do that in one of two ways:
 - You may send your Giving check to: Grace Hill Church, PO Box 496, Merton, WI, 53056.
 - Or, **IF** we are able to set up online giving, we will let you know those details when we are able.

God has given us two great promises in Philippians 4.6-9. One, as we pray and give thanks, He promises to fill our hearts and minds with His peace—a peace that passes all understanding. And secondly, not only does He promise us His peace, He, the God of Peace, promises to be with us! Yes, these are uncertain times, but one thing is certain: We live under the faithful care of the Good Shepherd! Make much of Him during this time!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Darrel
Writing on behalf of the GHC Elders