

NOVA Church Coronavirus Update
March 13, 2020

*The Lord is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation. Psalm 118:14*

Dear Family,

We wanted to provide you with updated information and guidance to help us as a church navigate the rapidly evolving coronavirus situation. We believe it is imperative that we take steps to lower the risk to each member and to the community at large. It is equally important that we find alternative ways to support one another and stay connected through these trying times.

SUNDAY & MIDWEEKS

FCPS has closed all schools to outside groups from now until April 12. Even if facilities were available, we believe it is best to cancel all church and region meetings through at least April 12. We want to be a full partner in the community response to prevent wider spread of the virus.

For Sunday worship, we will provide on-demand video messages for in-home communion services. Each region has a supply of pre-packaged communion cups available to be picked up if needed. For the North, contact Marcia Llorens (admin@nvcoc.org); for the West, contact Dina Gorrell (dinaier2911@gmail.com); for the South-East, contact Ayesha Jackson (ayeshajack@gmail.com).

For midweeks and house church, we are excited to offer weekly videos of the “In the Margins” Gospel of Mark podcast hosted by Matt Fisk and Josh Lund (www.nvca.academy - click “Podcast”). Stay tuned for more information and guidance on how to access the videos, which will be available through YouTube.

Starting this week, members are encouraged to connect as each feels comfortable—whether in person or virtually. We recommend against any large group gatherings. We fully support each person’s individual decisions as they see fit. Older members (60+) and anyone who is sick or vulnerable are asked to please stay home.

WOMEN’S DAY

The Women’s Day is cancelled. All registrations will be refunded by Marcia Llorens. We hope to reschedule to a later date, perhaps in March of next year. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia: admin@nvcoc.org.

HOUSE CHURCH

Our house church communities and connections are more important now than ever. We ask that you use your own good judgment regarding house church meetings. Those who choose not to join in person can connect via phone, Facetime, Skype, etc. Our technology team will provide more resources and guidance in the days to come to help everyone stay connected. We ask that every member be especially mindful of those who may feel more isolated due to life circumstance. Phone calls, encouragement texts, carrier pigeon—let’s be creative in reaching out to our brothers and sisters!

GENERAL PREVENTATIVE CARE

- Follow CDC guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.
- Stay home if you are sick or at high risk.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. If you use a tissue, wash your hands afterwards.
- Wash hands and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently:
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Use facemasks only if you are sick.
- Restrict international travel and non-essential domestic travel.

SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE

Pray Continually. Pray for the church. Pray for the weak and vulnerable. Pray for the lost. Pray for physical, emotional and spiritual health. Pray for wisdom. Pray for our nation and leadership to be wise and govern diligently. Pray for each of us to see this as an opportunity to exercise our faith and grow spiritually.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Consider Others Above Self. If you become ill, stay home to convalesce and to mitigate the spread of infection to others.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

Check-in. Check in with vulnerable and high risk members of your family and family groups.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35

We love you and trust that we as a community of faith will respond to this challenge with the wisdom, faith, hope and love that God supplies.

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

Psalms 37:3

With Love,

The Homets, Bouchets, Rosenquists and Yis