

## ***Dear Gracepoint Family,***

We have been closely tracking the news of the coronavirus (COVID-19) both locally and globally. As you're likely aware, there are confirmed cases in the surrounding area. While we know this virus is primarily spread through close contact, we want to take precautionary measures to create a safe and healthy environment for us all to gather and worship. Before we get into the details of the plans, I want to speak first to our posture as Believers in Jesus.

For many in our world the spread of this virus is causing great fear and anxiety, this is because it is shattering an illusion that they are in control. As Christ followers we know we are not in control but our great God is in control of all things. Scripture is clear that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love. Our prayer is that we would all sense a peace in the midst of these circumstances. This does not mean we should be careless or reactionary; rather, may we work together to serve our church and community in a way that demonstrates trust in our God who is in control.

We as a church are monitoring updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We are making plans and will change and adjust those plans based on the updates we receive. As of March 12, 2020, here are the precautions we are taking to increase health measures and mitigate the spread of germs.

### **DOORS**

To minimize your need to touch door handles, our greeter teams will hold exterior doors open to greet you.

### **GREETING**

While we have greeters at our doors, and a time of greeting during services, we recommend you greet each other with smiles and waves instead of handshakes and hugs for a time.

### **TITHES & OFFERINGS**

We recommend that you give your tithe and offering using Pushpay. Simply text GRACEPOINTGF to 77977 to get started giving that way. We will not pass offering baskets during the services this weekend, instead we will have them available by our doors.

### **UPCOMING COMMUNION ON GOOD FRIDAY**

We will not pass Communion trays when we observe the sacrament at our Good Friday service. We will provide pre-packed, individually wrapped Communion elements instead.

### **GKIDS**

As a church we have always been committed to a clean environment for our children. Surfaces and toys are regularly disinfected and we will continue to be vigilant with that. Volunteers will wipe down check-in surfaces between all services with disinfectant wipes.

### **OUR FACILITY**

We take pride in keeping a clean and safe environment. Our cleaning service uses cleaners such as a floor cleaner with hydrogen peroxide. During this season we will be especially diligent to make the environment safe for you and your family.

### **LIVESTREAMING**

If you find yourself feeling sick, we encourage you to join us digitally until you feel better and all symptoms are gone. We Livestream both of our Sunday services at 9 am and 11 am on our Facebook page.

Over all we encourage you to take some time to understand proper prevention measures to avoid spreading the virus by being aware of the CDC recommendations.

Here are some of the basic measures listed on the CDC website:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

Let's keep our trust in the Lord our Healer! Health rules like these were a part of Moses' law. God cares about cleanliness! We have wonderful promises in God's word of his protection over our well-being.

Remember the promise from Psalm 91:5-7:

*You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.  
A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.*

We will provide any necessary updates to you via email and post them on our social media outlets as needed. I ask that you be prayerful for our world and community, specifically for those who are directly impacted by this virus. Most of all, keep showing love in practical ways to those who need it most. See you this weekend!

Prayerfully,

Pastor Daniel