

Covid-19 Update

Dear church family,

Good morning to all of you. I hope this letter finds each of you doing well today. As you are likely well aware, the 2nd outbreak of the Corona Virus that we've been warned about has begun. It has hit our area harder in the last couple of days than did the 1st outbreak in its entirety. Jackson General Hospital, as of Monday, reported 25 patients with the virus. Yesterday they reported 35 patients. The reports coming in are stating there is an expectation for the Madison County region to continue seeing a rise in Corona Virus Cases as well as the rest of the state. Gov. Bill Lee has signed a new executive order concerning this new outbreak. I have copied the nuts and bolts of his executive order to this letter so we may better understand what those in leadership at the state level are asking of us.

Executive Order No. 50 extends previous provisions which include:

- Limit activity and staying home when possible
- Wear a face covering while in close proximity to others
- Employers should allow remote work where possible
- Individuals with COVID-19 or displaying symptoms are required to stay home
- Employers cannot require or allow COVID-19 positive employees to work
- Gatherings should be 50 people or fewer unless social distancing is maintained
 - **THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO PLACES OF WORSHIP, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS OR RELATED EVENTS**
- Limit contact sports with exception to collegiate or professional sports
- Limit nursing home and long-term care visitation
- Employers expected to comply with ERG guidelines
- Bars may only serve customers at appropriately spaced tables
- Provide delivery or special shopping hours
- Allow takeout/delivery sales at restaurants
- Allow access to telehealth services
- Increase access to healthcare workforce, unemployment benefits, protect supply chain
- Extend deadlines, suspend certain in-person continuing education to avoid unnecessary contact

While we have had a successful restart at Woodland in that we have returned to all services including Sunday School, its time to reevaluate in order to ensure we continue on a healthy and safe track. After much prayer

and counsel, I believe its time to take another step to promote safety within the body. We have implemented safety measures that we believe will help protect our congregation from the spread of the Corona Virus. These measures are as follows:

No Sunday School until further notice

No evening worship services until further notice

No handouts until further notice

Please understand we are not discontinuing all services at this time. We will continue meeting in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 10 A.M. We will continue with social distancing measures in place. Though we have become a bit relaxed as of late with social distancing at church, I am asking each of you for help in reinstating a more disciplined social distancing environment.

We will need to go back to exiting the services one pew at a time

We will need to go straight to the parking lot and away from the porch if we want to fellowship

We will need to arrive and immediately enter the sanctuary and be seated

We will need to continue to be patient and continue in prayer so we may emerge from this stronger and better than ever.

I know these are difficult times and I want to thank each of you for how incredibly understanding and gracious you have been to Bro. Len, myself, and each other as we are all trying to get through this together. Please continue to be in prayer that God will show Himself supernaturally in all of this. As we gather for worship please remember the following:

1. We will have greeters in place as usual. They will be helping to direct you to your seats in order to prevent our gathering in the hallways.
2. There will be ushers to assist you in finding designated seating. Please sit in the designated areas only.
3. Seating will be marked to ensure proper social distancing measures. Please be patient in this. Some of us will not be able to sit where we normally do. This is temporary!
4. Since Awana's schedule is tied directly to the school districts schedule Awana is cancelled for the remainder of the school year and will resume at the start of the new school year.
5. Measures have been taken to ensure the church will be sanitized before each service so you will not be concerned with contacting the virus by way of surface contact.
6. All bathrooms are open. Since it's impossible for us to maintain controls in these areas, we ask that you use safe distancing measures while using the facilities.
7. The worship service will continue to be different than we're accustomed to:
 - A. We are not having a greet time.

- B. Our ushers are not ushers collecting offering. Instead, the offering plates are located in the hallways outside the sanctuary both on the main level and the balcony.
 - C. We will have an invitation time at the end of the service. However, it will look different as well. Anyone making a decision during the invitation time or is impressed to speak with myself or Bro. Len about spiritual matters will be directed to do so in our offices directly after the service instead of coming forward during the invitation. The alter will be open if you feel impressed to come forward but remember to keep a safe distance from others that may be at the alter.
 - D. We will dismiss differently as well. At the end of the service, you will be asked to leave the sanctuary in an orderly fashion so we don't have people clustered together in the hallway and proceed directly out of the building so others will be able to exit.
8. While we are not mandating facemasks, we still have some facemask available for you if you wish to continue wearing them. I encourage you to do so at this time.
9. I'm asking you to please pay attention to how you feel, where you've been, or who you've been around. Consider others before you come to church. If you exhibit any of the following symptoms see a medical professional and/or be tested to see if you test positive for the Corona Virus but please wait to come back until you are symptom free. The symptoms include:
- A. Fever within the last 48 hours
 - 1.) While Woodland Baptist will not be taking temperatures at the door, we are asking that you please take your temperature before leaving your home to come to church.
 - 2.) Any temperature over 100.4 degrees is considered a high temperature by the CDC and you are asked not to attend the service with a fever.
 - 3.) To be on the safe side, I'm asking you to monitor your temperature in such a way that if your temperature is at all above your normal, you simply wait until it is back to your normal temperature range before attending a worship service.
 - B. Coughing, shortness of breath, or sore throat
 - C. Loss of your sense of taste or smell
 - D. Headaches
 - E. Vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours
 - F. If you've been exposed to the Corona Virus, please quarantine yourself for a two-week period. If during which time you become symptomatic seek a medical professionals opinion.
 - G. If you've traveled to a Corona Virus "hot spot" please treat that as an exposure to the virus by protecting yourself as well as other by taking self-quarantining measures.

10. These safety measures will be in place until we feel the danger of contracting the virus is gone or the risk is minimal.

I truly wish this was all behind us. However, I'm thankful for the unique opportunity that we as Christians have with a very certain God in very uncertain times. I'm reminded of *Romans 8:28*, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." I don't know what all good God has in store for us, but by faith I believe that even through all the anarchy of our day, the division in our nation, and the Corona Virus, God will do amazing things through each of us if we will just allow Him to do so. I want to encourage you to praise the Lord and talk with Him more than ever. When this is over, we will be able to declare what God has done and we will all be better for it! Looking forward to seeing you Sunday morning.

In Christ,

Bro. Stacy 

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