

UPDATE: Saturday, April 4, 2020
RIVER OF GRACE CHURCH COVID-19 RESPONSE

The recommendations of Federal, state, and local governments to the COVID-19 virus continue to change. Currently churches are considered a 'Critical Business' in the State of Colorado. Nevertheless, the Governor's Office has recommended that churches keep gatherings to 10 or fewer people and practice social distancing. The ban has been put in place through April 17th, but there is a strong possibility that the date will be extended.

Our Elder Team has been in frequent communication trying to determine next steps. Attempting to balance government mandates, our congregation's safety, and our biblical responsibility has been difficult. We also realize that the church across history (and even those in restricted nations today) regularly faced circumstances even more grave, and, with few exceptions, they met together. In our view, nothing replaces the corporate gathering of believers (Heb. 10:25). The proper preaching of the Word and administration of the sacraments are communal acts (Acts 2:42). Yet, the Scriptures also command that "every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities," for these were "established by God." And, "whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God" (Rom. 13:1-2). In this instance, the bans were established for the health and welfare of others, particularly the most vulnerable. Certainly, caring for others is every Christian's duty. But our separation cannot endure for long.

Having prayerfully considered these issues, the Elder Team has decided that we will suspend all corporate gatherings for the next two weeks. This will provide time to consider alternatives which may include meeting in small groups, providing online study opportunities, and other possibilities. Therefore, for the next two weeks (4/5 & 4/12) River of Grace Church will offer our Sunday worship service online. Look for the link on the homepage of our website (<http://www.riverofgracechurch.com>) or on our Facebook page.

We continue to recommend simple preventative measures including frequent hand washing, the use of hand sanitizer, covering one's mouth when coughing, keeping hands away from one's face, and cleaning surfaces frequently. Keep in mind that certain people also run a much higher risk of becoming very ill from COVID-19 and experiencing complications. These include those over 60 (and esp. those over 80), and people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung, or kidney disease, or diabetes.

During this time, we ask that you serve one another in love. We would recommend making phone calls, sending email, and finding other ways to encourage the brethren. You may even contact someone you've never gotten to know. If there are needs, find ways to meet them as wisdom dictates. And, we ask you to consider fasting and praying for our church, our community, our nation, and our brethren everywhere. Please contact Pastor Paul if you have any questions, concerns, need a Church Directory, or anything else. We love you and pray for you all. And we are here for you.

Your Elders
