

Dear Carlton Oaks Church family,

The coronavirus situation is indeed a challenge and it continues to develop. This afternoon the county of San Diego published a new public health order that bans gatherings of more than ten people. Right now this order is in effect through March 31st. In the interest of loving our neighbors and being submissive to the authorities appointed over us we will comply with this instruction. Therefore, for at least the next two Sundays, we will not hold Sunday worship services. TeamKID has also been cancelled for the time being. The men's and women's Bible studies are less than 10 people and so may still meet if people are comfortable doing so.

We are working to build the capability of live-streaming. So we would like to be able to stream at least the sermon on Sunday morning. If we can do that we will let you know how to do link in. If we cannot live stream it we will try to record video. If we cannot do that we will at least record audio like we do each Sunday. We will give more information as we get closer to the time. For those of you with children you might like to know that Lifeway is putting a video-based Sunday school like program online for free. Go to this link for more information:

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/lifeway-creates-online-sunday-school-alternative-as-churches-respond-to-coronavirus.html>

While it is a blessing that technology now allows us to bring sermons into our homes, that is not the same as being the church. The church is the community of God's people, not just listening to or watching a sermon. It will be a challenge to be the community of the church when we cannot meet together as we usually do. So here are some things we can do to stay connected.

- Keep praying for one another, for our church, and our community. Send in your prayer requests by email to Janet Barnett (cbarnettfamily@gmail.com) and/or to me. Please send them by 2pm on Sunday. We will send out the prayer request email as normal by Monday.
- I am available to pray directly with anyone over the phone (661-425-6443). Or, if needed, I can come to your location and pray with you in person.
- Keep communicating with one another through electronic means. Especially reach out to the more isolated and vulnerable in our congregation. See if they are OK or if they need anything. Send an encouraging text or email, make a phone call.
- We can still get together in smaller groupings. If we can get the live stream up and running, gather a few at someone's home to watch it together.

And we are open to other ideas. Be creative. This is an opportunity to show the love of Christ in new and fresh ways.

Remember that none of this came as a surprise to God. In fact God is the one who determined that this trial is exactly what we needed. It is what we needed as a nation, and what we needed as a church. This is the sort of thing that gets people's attention. Maybe now more people will be willing to listen to the message of hope and peace that we have been given. So, be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9).

I pray that you find your strength and comfort in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Craig