

Dear Carlton Oaks Church family,

We are about 3 weeks into this quarantine situation and we are all dealing with the various challenges it brings. One of the significant challenges is being unable to meet together in person. I am thankful, though, for the technology that we have to be able to meet in a virtual sense. And I am thankful that we have Dave Brock on our team to sort through the technology challenges. He has been putting in multiple hours of work to make sure we can hold worship services and get them to you online. This week we are going to step it up another notch. We will livestream the service at our normal service time of 10:45am. You will be able to find the livestream on our [website](#) or our [Facebook page](#).

Just so you know, we have made the decision that we will hold off on doing communion until we are together once again. You may have heard of some churches doing the Lord's Supper virtually. That is a choice that each church needs to make for themselves. We believe that doing it virtually would undercut the vital symbolism in communion, that it is a family meal, taken together. I hope that this postponement increases your desire to be together again and to partake in the Lord's Supper together.

This coronavirus situation is also presenting opportunities we might not have gotten otherwise. Many online content providers are making their content available for free, or at a significant discount. [Here is a webpage that gives links to many Christian providers](#), from a TV streaming service to classes of various kinds.

The elder candidates and I are going to take advantage of one of these opportunities... a class given by my seminary alma mater on hermeneutics. Hermeneutics is just a fancy word for the principles for how you study your Bible and understand what it means. The class is intended for lay people and is normally \$70/person, but it is being given free during the pandemic quarantine. It is a 10-week online course, with what looks like about 1-1.5hrs of work each week (watch some video lectures, do some reading). You can go at your own pace though, you don't have to do it in 10 weeks. But, that is the pace the elder candidates and I will plan to go. If you would like to take this class with us, please email or text to let me know by Tuesday (4/7). It works best if I set up a group within the course management system. I don't know if you have been more busy during this quarantine, or have a lot of time on your hands but if you have extra time, or just want to make the most of what you have, consider joining us in this course.

I am very much looking forward to the day we are all together in one room worshipping the Lord with one voice. I can't wait to see your faces again in the pews. Until then, we will have to worship Him with one voice in our separate places. May the Lord watch over us and sustain us while we are apart and bring us back together soon.

Grace and peace,

Craig