



March 13, 2020

## Updates Concerning COVID-19

Dear Covenant Family,

It goes without saying that we have all been paying close attention to the news and developments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting large portions of the world and now our own communities. The Session has been carefully weighing options as the situation has continued to change based on latest guidelines and updates from the CDC, the state of New Jersey, and our local municipalities. We have decided that it is in the best interest of our congregation and our community to cancel services for Sunday, March 15, including Sunday school, worship, and youth group.

At this time, we are reminded of Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor (Mark 12:31). One of the ways we can do that in the midst of this pandemic is to curb the spread of the virus by practicing appropriate hygiene and social distancing. Another way is to literally care for our neighbors: ask how people are doing, what they might need help with, and how we can be in prayer. In the coming days and weeks, there will be countless opportunities to sacrificially love those around us in a spirit of boldness and humility. We pray that this will bear fruit for God's kingdom as many around us are gripped by fear, anxiety, and confusion. Remember, even if we are distant from each other, God is present and His Spirit moves with power.

### Further Updates

**Pastoral Care:** The Session is ready to help care for those that need physical or spiritual care. Please reach out to the church office if you, your family, your neighbors, or others that you know are in need.

**Church Facility:** The church office will remain open and staffed during normal operating hours, Monday-Friday 9am-2pm. If you are being asked to work from home and need additional quiet space, please reach out to the church office and we will try to accommodate those needs as we steward our facility for good during this season.

**Worship:** With the fluid nature of this situation, we are still in the midst of exploring creative ways to continue in worship together even while we are apart. In the

meantime, please take this opportunity to engage in worship together as a family (and try not to drive each other too crazy!) and let us know if you have any good ideas or resources to share with the rest of the body.

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)*

*“In the world you will have tribulation—but take heart, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)*

Grace and peace,

The Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church