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Good afternoon brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to start off by stating that I am praying for each and every single one of you. We are facing something that none of us have faced before. As Elsa sang in Frozen 2, we are "Into the Unknown." There is a lot of uncertainty, fear, anger, disappointment, stress, and anxiety. People are getting sick and dying. Others are losing income. Businesses have to close. Schools are closed and kids and teachers are trying to do remote school. People are trying to work from home. So many things have been canceled. In the midst of all of this, we can have peace! God constantly invites us to not be afraid but to put our trust in God! As I was reading my devotions yesterday morning, I read Mark 6:50 where Jesus is walking out on the water to the disciples who are rowing against heavy winds and says, "Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid." Jesus is speaking that to us today. Jesus is walking out on the water towards us and telling us to not be afraid. Instead take courage, because He is with us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus in our peace in the storm, our hope in the uncertainty, and our joy in the disappointment and stress. Share that message with others. They need to hear it.

Since we are concerned with everyone's safety and well-being and our desire to follow the CDC's recommendations, we are canceling all meetings and services for the time being. All Sunday services and small group meetings are canceled. We will be sending an email in the coming days about our Sunday service Live Stream. We are trying to make it a better experience for all those involved. Look for that email on Friday.

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Since we do not want anyone to be disconnected, we are encouraging you first of all to reach out to each other. You never know what a phone call, text message, email, or call could mean to someone. We need to continue to encourage each other, be there for each other, and love on one another. We can even pray over the phone with each other. We need a way to have each other's information. Our church software company is providing that opportunity for FREE with an online directory! You can register for it [here](#) and we need your permission to add your information to the online directory. It will only be visible to people in the church. When you register, it will not give you access right away. Gabi or I have to match your information with the information in our system. Then you will be granted access. If you have issues, let me know. We are also looking for other ways for us to connect via Google Hangouts possibly hosting a prayer meeting or Bible Study. We will send those details as we figure them out. If you have any specific prayer requests, you can always reach out to me. I'd love to pray with you and for you.

Since we are a community of people who believe who follow a Savior who showed us the way of love, we want to love our community. One way that we all can do that is by trying to do five acts of kindness each day. They could be for people who you are stuck with inside, for your neighbors, or others in our community. There's lots of ways from sharing what you have with others (food, drinks, or TP), sending a card to someone, leaving a note of encouragement for a neighbor, bringing your neighbor's trashcans in, or doing some yardwork for a neighbor. I've seen some of our teachers offering their help to parents! You rock! Love that idea! These are just a beginning of what you can do! Could you imagine the impact it would have if all those who open this email (we average 60-70 people actually opening it) did 5 acts of kindness every single day? What a way to live out the Kingdom of God! We are looking for ways to love our community as a church during this time. We have not our community to know that we as a church are here for them and will help them. If you have any ideas, let me know.

The Pitman Food Pantry is staying OPEN! They are well stocked right now but that doesn't they won't run out soon. With so many people losing their income,

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they are expecting an influx of people in the coming weeks. They will not turn anyone away that needs food. With that being said, they still need our support. They will need more food to stock their shelves. Please drop off food if you are able. You can drop off during pantry hours (Tuesday 6-7pm, Wednesday 4-5pm, Thursday 12-1pm) or leave donations by their door around the back of the building. They are usually there an hour before to get things ready.

Lastly, I want to encourage you to continue to give to the church during this time. The church still has bills to pay even though we will not be meeting in person together. You can either send checks to the church or you can donate online through PayPal through our [website](#). We are so thankful for all of your tithes and offering always but especially at this time.

Please reach out to me if you need someone to talk to or someone to pray with. I will miss seeing you all in person over these next few weeks. I'm not sure you feel the same. Haha! May God continue to fill all of you with hope, peace, love and joy! May God continue to shine brightly in your hearts and lives.

Remember to wash your hands and keep a safe social distance.

Much love,

Rev. Ran

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