

## **Cypress Creek Christian Church Moves All Gatherings Online Effective Immediately**

Borrowing from the Apostle Paul who was often bringing a difficult message to a church, let me begin by saying to you: Grace and peace in the name of the Triune God - Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life. As you can imagine, we have been wrestling with a decision, though not in some vacuum. Cypress Creek has an amazing Leadership Team that has served as a sounding board and source of great wisdom. With that said, the decision is not difficult. This is a serious situation, and effective immediately, we will be moving our worship and other activities online and through other means of virtual connection. We will stop all face-to-face gatherings so that we can be participants in the work of slowing the spread of this virus. Some people ask, "Are you going to be closing the church?" Since you and I are the church, we are never closed. Will the buildings be closed? The answer is YES, but the ministry of Christ will continue through us wherever we are.

We will be reevaluating this in the weeks ahead, but we would ask that you share this information with anyone in the church who might not receive it. Our hope is that everyone hears it twice.

The church staff is available for pastoral care by phone or email. The church's direct line is being forwarded to a staff member, or you can reach us on our cell numbers. The Team of Elders will also be connecting with the congregation. The staff will be limited in regard to hospital and shut-in visits for the near future as we want to protect them and their families.

For the immediate future, we will be pausing our shut-in communion.

With all that is happening, we know there is great anxiousness for many. Fear is not bad - fear is just our bodies doing what they do. Though scripture says, "Do not fear," most people think that we were being encouraged to not react from a place of fear. Fear can be Information or it can be the Engine. Try to keep it from driving you. Instead, allow it to be a source of information through which you explore why you are afraid. It is there that the Spirit can begin to more fully work within us.

Cypress Creek Christian Church will continue to Put Love First In All Things! In fact, this decision is a decision that puts love first. We love all people, including the most vulnerable. It is our passion to serve such people, and if serving them means finding another way of worshiping for a short period of time, then we can do so.

Also, the church invites your ongoing financial support. You can give online or mail it to the church. Remember, the church now has a locked mailbox.

May the God who was and is the spark of life within us all be the God whose light we see even in moments like this.

Bruce and The Executive Committee