



Wednesday, March 15, 2020

Members and Friends,

For the foreseeable future, we will be gathering online for church services instead of on-site. This includes Sunday School, Sunday Morning Worship, Sunday Evening Worship, and our Midweek Service on Wednesdays. All other on-site or in-person ministries will be temporarily suspended.

We are praying for guidance and listening to the doctors at the Center for Disease Control, as well as to our Ohio governor, concerning precautions for COVID-19. I personally love gathering together with God's people. I thank God for the technology we have to stream our services online, but I eagerly look forward to the day when these temporary measures can be set aside. As soon as it is responsible to do so, we will meet again on-site with one another.

Look for updates here (columbiaroad.org) and on Facebook. Also, we'll send them to you via email and text message. Until that time (may God grant that it is a short time), we will not be meeting in-person at the church for any services or activities.

As your pastors, we are just a phone call or email message away. We love you all, and we want to do everything we can to help you and the community through this trying time. Don't hesitate to reach out to us. We'll be regularly checking in with our members.

Some have asked about giving tithes and offerings during this time. You can securely give online at <https://columbiaroad.org/give>. Many others have mailed in their offerings, too. Thank you for faithfully supporting your local church and our 90+ missionary endeavors around the world.

So, what *can* we do while we can't meet on-site? Here's a few thoughts:

Attend all online services.

Do everything you can to fellowship around the Word as we livestream Sunday School and all of our church services. Even though we can't be together in person, we can be together in spirit. Perhaps more than ever, we need the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

Spend time with God daily.

Don't allow this change in schedule to distract you from your daily time alone with God. Read the Bible for yourself. Pray to God for your loved ones and church family. Bring all of your cares before Him in prayer. Make it a daily routine either first thing in the morning or before you go to bed at night.

Give faithfully.

You are never more like God than when you're giving. God has made powerful promises to those of His children that faithfully tithe and give financially to the work of the Lord. We have never needed those promises more than we do during this turbulent time. Let us be cheerful givers!



Speak hope and life.

Take every opportunity to talk of God's greatness with others. People are looking for hope right now. We have hope to get them through this pandemic, and so much more. Let your conversations always lead back to the Lord, His power, and His promises. Share the Good News of Jesus Christ as God gives you divine appointments.

Check in with one another.

The hallmark of God's people is how they love one another. Call, text, or email your fellow church members and friends. Encourage them in the Lord, and see if they have any prayer requests or needs. If you do find that someone has a physical or spiritual need, please pass it on to us in church leadership.

Let's keep praying for one another!

Bill Giallourakis

Lead Pastor

Columbia Road Baptist Church

“**20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, **21** Unto him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” ~ Ephesians 3:20-21