

NSC Update - March 17, 2020

Hello New South Family,

This was the bread aisle at our local Kroger yesterday at about 4:00:



Good thing Jesus is the Bread of Life, eh? :-)

Also, this quote that David, my son, saw online: "Remember, love like Jesus...but wash your hands like Pontius Pilate." :-)

OK seriously now...here are some ideas that we're using at Wilmore to help each other stay connected and updated:

- 1) In lieu of meeting in person for Prayer Meeting, we are encouraging the e-mailing of notes of praise and prayer requests to the church office, which will then compile them and send them via our e-mail list each Wednesday afternoon. This is how we'll do Prayer Meeting for the foreseeable future. If you don't have a text or e-mail list, now is the time to create one. Of course most of you will use Facebook for this, but it's just not feasible for us.
- 2) I've encouraged our people to the initiative to give people they know (and people they may not know, but who they may discern could use some personal contact) a call or text or e-mail. Check on those who are older, alone, and /or have compromised health.
- 3) I've invited all who are part of the at-risk age/health group who would like someone to do grocery shopping and other necessary errands for them...or those who would like to offer their services for such errands, to contact our office so one could be paired with the other. Maybe someone in your church could take on this responsibility of coordination as a place of ministry?
- 4) I've encouraged all our ABF (Adult Sunday School leaders) to consider getting a free subscription to Zoom or Skype and holding some connection time online for their ABF, and at least to use (or develop and use) an e-mail distribution list / Facebook group to help their class stay connected.
- 5) I have given our congregation this exact word (below) about finances. Please consider using the principles below, adapting them to your congregation and situation:

A word about Finances: Frankly, no one yet knows how long this business of not meeting for worship may continue. We hope for a short duration, but in the interest of planning for a longer duration, the Finance Team will be issuing a comprehensive statement in the near future. In the meantime, let me just say:

- *We do have an approximate \$50,000.00 in cash reserves, plus several other cash funds from which we can borrow to cover expenses.*
- *We anticipate lower expenses due to our heat /air conditioning being set at a low, constant rate, since we are not meeting in the facility.*
- *We are encouraging our Team Leaders and Staff to eliminate all unnecessary purchases – stuff we don't need since we're not meeting in person, as well as construction materials that are not required regular maintenance items. In other words, for now, we'll buy only those things that are required to keep our property clean, safe and functional.*
- *We are also temporarily stopping our monthly over-payment of our mortgage. We will continue to pay our normal mortgage payment, but all donations to "Close the Gap" (our debt-reduction fund) will simply accrue in that fund, should we need cash, until we have a clear understanding of when normal giving will resume. We can always make a big payment in a few months.*
- *We are encouraging all people to mail in, or [give electronically](#) in their normal manner and extent, since we do have ongoing expenses (benevolence, insurance, missions commitments, mortgage, staff, utilities, etc.)*
- *We are trying, as a church, to adhere to the same good financial practices that households should, namely:*
 - *Have funds reserved for personal emergencies.*
 - *Have funds available to give to others in critical need – there will be some persons we'll need to help.*
 - *Curb unnecessary spending as much as possible.*

I realize this was far more information than inspiration, so that's enough for today, except for this: Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

~ Luke 12:22-26

It is precisely times like this when the world around us can see Jesus most clearly in us – in our preparedness, calm, patience, helpfulness, and joy. Let's show the world, and each other, Jesus.

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