



GBC Members Newsletter (Trusting in the Lord in the Midst of a Global Crisis - Covid-19)

1 message

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GRACE
BIBLE CHURCH

Members Newsletter

Dear Church Family,

It's good to know that this world is not our home and that our citizenship is in heaven, as we are reminded in Philippians 3:20. We are living in interesting times!

As you know, the major item in the news in recent days has been the spread of the coronavirus. Thankfully, there are no confirmed cases in MT but that could change. Therefore, those of us in leadership are meeting and talking regularly about the things we can do to be prudent and responsible. **Let me emphasize that this is not a time for fear and panic.** Approximately 50 times in the word of God we see the command, "Do not fear." Our trust is in the sovereign God

Who rules and is never surprised by anything that happens on planet earth. Psalm 46 is a powerful reminder that our trust is in this sovereign Lord. It's a brief Psalm, and I would encourage you to read it now or as soon as you are finished reading this email.

Below we will share with you what we, as church leaders, are doing to exercise caution about the potential for sickness, and we will also include some suggestions or recommendations to all of us in our church family

Attending Services. To protect our church family, we would like to encourage those with symptoms of illness (especially fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing) to not attend our Sunday corporate worship gatherings until you have been without any symptoms for 24 hours. If for whatever reason, you believe it best to not attend our gatherings in this season, we completely understand. We hope that you will worship from home by watching the recorded morning worship service. See the additional information below.

Serving Obligations. For those who would prefer to not attend corporate worship gatherings for the moment, but who are currently signed up to serve in some capacity, we do not want you to feel obligated to put yourself at risk. Please notify the ministry leader who oversees your areas of service as soon as possible. We'll then look to recruit more help or consider other options.

Watching the Service from Home. For those who do decide to stay home for any given Sunday, you will be able to watch a recording of the service from our church's website (www.gbcm.org/sermons) or by using the "Grace Bible Church Bozeman" smartphone app. Audio and video recordings of the morning corporate worship gatherings generally are available by 1 p.m on Sundays.

Minimizing Physical Contact. We are not going to encourage people to shake hands or hug in a greeting time during corporate worship for the

foreseeable future, and we would encourage you not to hold out your hand to someone at church to say hello to that person. It will put him/her in the awkward position of trying to determine if it's okay not to shake hands with you.

Door Greeters. In addition, for the sake of limiting the spreading of germs through physical contact, we are instructing our greeters to greet our congregants by opening the door and without any handshaking.

Cleaning and Disinfecting. In order to be extra vigilant in our efforts to prevent the spread of infection, we think it would be wise to regularly disinfect high-traffic surfaces in our church (pew backs, tables, counters, doorknobs, etc.). In order to do this, we need people from our body to serve. We would like to organize disinfectant teams for two times on Sundays: (1) Sunday morning before services at 8am, and (2) Sunday before evening service at 3pm.

Sign up to Serve by clicking the [link here](#).

Disinfectant Station. In order to facilitate our volunteer disinfectant teams, we have designated the custodial closet (behind the missions map) as our disinfectant station. In this room, you will find disposable gloves, towels, disinfectant, and a printed protocol that we would like to encourage our volunteers to follow.

General Cleanliness. In order to love and serve the other members of our church, regular hand washing to limit the passing of germs is greatly encouraged. Please also do your best to cough or sneeze into the corner of your elbow rather than into your hands.

Children and Nursery. Thankfully, the coronavirus does not seem to impact children significantly. However, it is no secret that children tend to be high carriers of germs. In order to serve one another, and to prevent the spread of infection, parents, please be extra cautious deciding if it is best to drop your

child off at the nursery or in their Sunday School class. In this season, depending on the severity of their symptoms it may be best to keep them with you in the corporate worship service or keep them at home. If your child becomes ill after attending on Sunday, please notify us immediately so that we can alert other parents to monitor their children.

Other Church Meetings (CLG, youth group, community groups, etc.) As the outbreak of the coronavirus unfolds in our country, we will be assessing the situation in Bozeman on a week by week basis. As of now, we do not plan to cancel any of our regularly scheduled meetings.

Turkey Work Team. Effective March 12, flights from Europe will not be allowed to enter the US until April 12. So our work team will not be leaving this month and we will be looking to reschedule the trip at a later date.

This is a wonderful time to serve one another and follow the example of our Lord, Who said that He did not come to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45). There are many ways that we can serve one another through this crisis. In addition, don't miss the tremendous opportunity that these circumstances can give us to live and spread the gospel (1 Peter 2:9). As fear and hopelessness increase in the world around us, may we with **great confidence** and **trust** in our **sovereign God** make an extra effort to proclaim the excellencies of Him Who has called us out of the darkness and into His marvelous light.

As we look back in history, we see how God has always used difficult times to accomplish great things for the spread of the gospel. Let us not miss this opportunity!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Bryan

