



SHEPHERD'S  
GATE CHURCH

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

**March 14, 2020**

Hey Church Family,

With Coronavirus (COVID-19) being reported in the Metro-Detroit area, in stewardship of our responsibility to our church and local community, and in coordination with local leaders, **we are suspending all activities and closing our church building starting Saturday, March 14, 2020.**

After much prayer and talking with other pastors in the area and around our country, **this also includes closing church this Sunday and until further notice**, however we will live-stream the 8:30a service and then rebroadcast it at 10a and 11:30a EST. This will give us the opportunity to be part of the chat feature on the recorded live stream at 10a and 11:30a.

As we have been looking to God's Word in Paul's letter to the church in Rome since the beginning of the year, let's look at Romans 13 together.

Romans 13:1-2, 4-5

"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience."

No matter our political leaning, our governor has asked every[one] in Michigan to avoid gathering people together in groups of 100 or more, and this includes places of worship. As Christians, we should help in this by limiting exposure, and not stubbornly plowing ahead. In doing so, we will be doing our part to help "flatten the curve".

If someone asks why our church chose to respond to this health crisis by closing its doors, here's our response:

- We are loving our neighbors by protecting our neighbors.
- We are not being fearful. We are being responsible.
- This is what love requires of us in this season.

**The building maybe closed, but The Church is not!**

In the midst of fears and anxiety, the Church has a responsibility to represent Jesus to our communities.

Here's how you can help be the Church while our in-person activities are suspended:

- Meet with your small groups. Gather in homes with small groups, in neighborhoods, as family, amongst friends, if you are healthy.
- Invite people into community. We don't need a building to invite people around our tables and to have a conversation about the hope of Jesus.
- Serve the vulnerable in our communities. As schools and organizations suspend operations, the poor and the elderly will be the most impacted. Check in on elderly neighbors.
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We are actively looking for ways that we can come alongside individuals and our partner organizations in our community.

We are going to do every[thing] we can to love and to support our members and our community. I am working with Ron Kuczera, our Local Outreach Coordinator, Dave Dion, our Mission14 Chairman, and Pastor Craig Meyer, our Seniors Ministry Leader, to make contacts with our local mission partners to find out their needs as well as coming up with a plan to contact all the seniors in our congregation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need spiritual, material, or financial assistance. The entire staff is here to serve you and your family.

Ultimately, by faith we know God is in control. He is still on His throne. And He will get us through this situation.

God Bless,

Tim Bollinger  
Lead Pastor