

March 17, 2020

Dear Church Family,

To honor the latest direction from the White House and Governor Whitmer, effective today at 9:00am, we will be closing our building, to all groups, through April 5. We will also temporarily suspend all Life Groups, children and youth ministries. At that time, the Leadership Team will be re-evaluating the situation.

Weekend Services through April 5

Each weekend, we ask that each individual and family in the ECC church network worship from home. We will post or livestream our services on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. for the next three weeks. Watch your email and the church Facebook page for more details, as we are still working on this! The audio sermon will also be available online during the week on our website (posted on Mondays). If you are a parent of children and youth, please contact Terri Means, Craig Smith, or Chuck Connell for ideas on how to worship and have fun together. If you are not yet using *Right Now Media*, contact Justin Porath (jporath@eccwhitehall.org) for instructions how to access an amazing video library of Christian films and videos.

Staying Connected

We know many of you may have more time by yourselves or with your families than you anticipated. Use this time to refocus on what is really important: your relationship with God, reconnecting in a new way with your family, and pray about ways to serve your neighbors and friends (pick up groceries for them, rake their lawns, or encourage them through phone calls, notes or email). Just because we can't "GO" to church, we can still "BE" the church!

The church staff will be available to talk, pray and help in any way. The office hours during the next three weeks, will be from 9:00 a.m. through noon, Monday through Thursday. However, please feel free to email any of us or call us at any time for help or to make an appointment – we have included our cell phone numbers at the end of this letter.

Giving

Although the church building will be closed for group meetings, there still is a vital need to continue with your tithes and offerings. Even without groups meeting, operating costs and salaries still exist. There are many ways to give:

- Online giving (<http://www.eccwhitehall.org/resources/give/>)
- Stop by the church office between 9:00 and noon, Monday through Thursday
- Mail;
- Use your bank's bill pay services

Finally....

Don't feed your fear – feed your faith! Panic spreads when we focus on the “What ifs” and not what Jesus has already done for us. Read, meditate and pray over the following verse today:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” Philippians 4:6-8

We love you and are here for you.

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