



March 19, 2020

Dear River of Life Family and Friends,

When I last wrote to you I thought that as a congregation we might be spared the meeting restriction that would befall the larger churches due to the Coronavirus. As long as the recommendation was to cancel gatherings of fifty (50) or more I felt that our small size would still allow us to meet. Now that the President and the Mayor have both called for groups larger than ten (ten) to avoid gathering, it seems that we too have come up against the difficulty of gathering together to worship and be equipped in a world where social distancing is the norm.

Since Sunday morning worship services are the only time our ministry exceeds 10 people, we will not be having a regularly scheduled service this coming Sunday.

As long as ministry groups remain under 10 we will not be cancelling or postponing them.

I would like to remind you that each person who attends River of Life has access to Bible studies and Christian media through Right Now Media (<https://www.rightnowmedia.org>). If you don't have access to this resource, simply email Pastor and he can add you to the list.

Again, it would seem that the principle of walking in love should play a role in our commitment to gather. So let me remind you that what we do, we do out of love for those among us who would be most at risk.

Here is how we can put this principle into practice in the midst of the Coronavirus:

1. If you are sick or experiencing the symptoms of illness (cough, fever or runny nose), because you love your brothers and sisters in Christ- stay home. Minister to the Body here at River of Life by not exposing people in our congregation who maybe more vulnerable to the virus. If you are experiencing symptoms, please see your medical professional.
1. If you are among those who are at risk, do not feel guilty about staying at home. Pray with us and for us, continue in your daily reading of the Bible as together we read through the Bible in a year, and know that we here at River of Life still love you. However, if you are going to stay at home, please let us know by emailing us, texting us, or calling us so that we do not worry about you unnecessarily.
2. If you become ill, or need assistance please contact the church office, by phone- 790-2424, email- mhicks@tucsonriveroflife.com or text Pastor or one of the deacons. If you are willing to assist those who are ill and in need of assistance, please let Pastor know.
3. Look for opportunities to minister to others during this crisis. We know that God has predestined us for good works before the foundation of the world, look for those good works and be ready to assist when and where you can.
4. Check in with those who you are connected to in small groups, ministry teams, and body life here at River of Life. Do not let someone slip through the cracks. If you haven't seen them or heard from them- contact them and check in on their well-being.

Finally, keep checking the church website: Tucsonriveroflife.com for further updates and information.

Remember that the God we serve is bigger than any fear, anxiety, situation or problem we may face. Join us as we pray together for the working out of God's will, the healing of those affected by the virus and opportunities to share the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those who are lost, dying and in need of a Savior.

Kindling a passion for Christ,

Pastor Dale