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March 14, 2020

Dear Joy Family,

In light of the recent concerns in our community about the COVID-19 virus, we want you to know that our Elder Team has been praying, speaking with each other and talking with other church leaders in seeking God's direction for us in the upcoming weeks.

Although God has not given us a spirit of fear and we do not want to give in to panic or despair, there is still much we do not know about the COVID-19 virus. As such, we believe that taking a cautious approach at this time is the most prudent action.

Following Service tomorrow, we will be suspending all "in person" meetings, services and small groups until March 28<sup>th</sup> at which time we will reassess as more information about this virus comes to light.

### **What this means for tomorrow**

- We will not be offering separate Sunday School or Nursery for our Joy Kidz. They are welcome to join parents and adults in worship.
- If you are over the age of 60 years old (which the CDC says is the highest risk group) please stay home and worship with us virtually on YouTube via our channel (search on YouTube: **JoyNJ Haddon Heights, NJ**, or click [here](#))
- Online viewing is the perfect way to be part of our church whenever you feel unwell.
- We'll be having a special message from Isaiah 41 reminding us of God's love and care that gives us peace and confidence no matter what we may face.
- In addition to the message and corporate worship, we'll also spend time praying together for our families, neighbors, country and world.

*We are committed to keeping Joy a clean space for you to worship. We are in this together. Here are ways you can help:*

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- If you are feeling unwell, please rest at home
- When coughing or sneezing, consider others and keep covered
- Avoid physical contact with others (shaking hands, hugging, high fives and even ballroom dancing, etc...)
- Disinfect belongings you bring to church from your home

## What this means beyond tomorrow

- Our time of Worship Together for March 21<sup>st</sup> will be virtual. This means we will have our service for next Sunday on our YouTube Channel. It will go up at 10am Sunday and be available for you to watch then or at your convenience.
- Giving can still be made either by mail or online via our church website ([joynj.org](http://joynj.org)).
- We'll be sending out communication via email, our website or church Facebook page. (If you have not liked our page yet, please do: **Joy Community Fellowship – Haddon Heights, NJ**).
- Email Adam with regular prayer requests, but if you have any other needs please email me ([pastormark@joynj.org](mailto:pastormark@joynj.org)) and I will make sure to see how we can best meet those needs.
- If you are unable to get out, need food, a ride, or other necessities, please contact me immediately and we will see how we can help. We can go out shopping and drop off food if you can't get out.
- This is a time we can band together to help each other as well as offer hope to our neighbors. If you know of any a need a neighbor has, let me know and we will see how we might be able to offer assistance. Tomorrow we will be providing a <sample> card you can leave for neighbors offering hope and help.
- We will be posting links to devotionals, family activities and other ways we can keep close to God and each other on Facebook and our website. Just because we cannot be physically together, doesn't mean we can't still rely on, fellowship with and grow together. ***We are JOY TOGETHER after all.***

## Here are some general guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control

Since there is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Follow these CDC guidelines:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a face mask.
  - *CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.*
  - *Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.*
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (long enough to sing "Happy Birthday" twice), especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Take courage, God is always on His throne!

*Isaiah 41:10* fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Following Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Mark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".