



Calvary Chapel of Silverdale

March 17, 2020

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Within the last few weeks, the world has been forced to confront the reality of a global spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Our hearts go out to all those who have been affected and we are committed to do our part to reduce community exposure to the virus and protect those most vulnerable in our society. The health and safety of our community and our congregation is our first priority, so with the guidance of health authorities, local governments and the World Health Organization, we have made the difficult decision to *temporarily* change the way we do church.

Effective immediately, Calvary Chapel of Silverdale (CCS) is canceling or moving to a virtual facilitation of ALL physical gatherings/events at our church building, and those that are facilitated by CCS at another location. This includes FORGE Youth Group, the Women's Tuesday Craft Fellowship, The Kitsap School of Ministry, Women's Spring Bible Study, and TED Talks.

Events/Gatherings That Are Cancelled or moving to a virtual platform:

- FORGE Youth Group
- Women's Tuesday Craft Fellowship
- The Kitsap School of Ministry (virtual platform)
- Night of Worship

In addition to this, we will change our Sunday morning gatherings to be completely virtual/online. What this means is that while we will not gather as a church in our building on Sunday mornings, we will have limited staff/volunteers at the church on Sunday mornings to do worship, preach the sermon, and facilitate communion, and this will all be live-streamed online on our website, and available on BoxCast through Apple TV, Roku, or Amazon Fire. We encourage you to have juice and cracker or bread on hand at home, so that you can partake in communion each week facilitated by the pastor during the online service. Tithes and offerings can be mailed to the church (mailing address listed at the end of this letter) or given online on our church website here:

<https://calvarychapelsilverdale.com/give>

The All Church meeting that was scheduled for this Sunday, March 22, will now be cancelled. However, Pastor Pete will be recording a video that will contain all the information that he was going to share on Sunday at the meeting. This video will be sent out on Sunday via email, made available to watch on our website, and a link will be posted on our Community Facebook page. The message in the video will also be transcribed to a letter, and mailed out to our church body, to ensure that everyone receives the information, especially those who do not typically use digital tools and social media.

Our church secretary, Libby Armstrong, will continue to keep our regular church business hours, however, to limit her exposure, we ask that you make an appointment if you need to come by the office, or, if possible, reach out to her either through phone or email.

Events/Things That Are NOT Being Cancelled, But Are Changing

- Sunday Morning Gatherings – Moving to one completely virtual service at 10AM
- All Church Meeting on 3/22 – Physical gathering is not happening, but Pastor Pete will send out a video on 3/22 in lieu of the meeting
- Office Hours – Staying the same, but please make an appointment if you need to come in

Be Encouraged

We anticipate these changes being in effect for at least the next 6 weeks, however, this situation, as we all know, is very fluid and changes come fast and furious at times. We will continue to monitor all communications from government and local health officials and follow their counsel in these matters.

While these changes are necessary at this time to help limit the spread of this virus, they will not last forever. While we temporarily adjust the way we “do” church and live in community together, the good news of Jesus Christ is the same! We now just *get* to find creative ways to continue to BE the Body of Christ, His hands and feet, and His voice to a world that is hurting and fearful. While it might be difficult to see at first, God uses hardship for opportunity. Opportunities for us to trust Him more, for us to share with our neighbors our hope lies in Jesus, and for us to be the light in a dark moment in time.

Encouraging physical distance and self-quarantine for those for whom it is prudent does not mean that we should live in isolation. Look for ways to have personal contact with others, consider ways to reach out and encourage those who may need it. A personal note sent through the mail, an email, a text, a facetime call – there are so many things we can do to connect.

If you feel led to donate to those who may be experiencing financial loss or hardship due to the effects of this virus on our community, the church will be collecting funds to pass on to those individuals who need it. You can donate to this fund online here:

<https://calvarychapelsilverdale.com/give>

On the drop-down tab, choose the COVID-19 Benevolence to donate. You can also donate by check by mailing it to our church office. The mailing address is listed at the end of this letter.

If you are someone who is in need of assistance, please contact the church office by phone or email, the contact information is listed at the end of this letter.

In Christ’s abundant grace and mercy,



Pastor Peter Voorhees
Calvary Chapel Silverdale

Email: office@ccsilverdale.com

Phone: 360-394-2100

Mailing Address: PO Box 2407 Silverdale, WA 98383