

Resonate Family,

I hope you are all doing well today. I wanted to send out a quick update to communicate our plan for how we will navigate the rocky waters of this Coronavirus Pandemic as information continues to change the way we need to operate.

Before we begin, I'd like to pause and remind you in these trying times of the gospel... The gospel is the good news that JESUS IS THE KING and because he is the king, the good, abundant life of God is available right here, right now. Right now— in our anxiety, right here in our fear, right here in our uncertainty.. Family, the Spirit of God has worked in all times, in all places, and in all circumstances to expand the kingdom of God WITH this good news through HIS PEOPLE, THE CHURCH. Resonate, that is us. We speak often about being a kingdom outpost here in this present age— For certain, that means our building at 107 Woodruff Street, ***This, as we often say, also means that your homes serve as kingdom outposts all throughout our city!***

This is something that has been part of our DNA since the first time we gathered around a dining room table back in 2011. Not only that we have centuries of church history that show that the people of God have always been about bringing this extraordinary gospel into the ordinary things of life— in some of the most desperate circumstances that this present age has ever known. Resonate Church, Psalm 127 tells us that we were built (and are being built) by Jesus for such a time as this.

We recognize that we with the world around us, is grieved by the trials of the present age— specifically this global coronavirus pandemic. In a relatively short time, there has been much loss of life, sickness, fear, and anxiety and disruption. Add to that the fact that we were created by God to be connected to one another in community with one another. Not being together to worship Jesus with one another on Sunday grieves me deeply. I feel it in my gut, family. That being said, we do well to remember that while it's ok to grieve the loss (for a time, at least) of this whole church gathering, we recognize that the church is more than a building.. it's more than a couple of hours on Sunday morning. The church is the people of God, saved by the power of God, filled with the presence of God, and sent into all of life for the purposes of God.

Resonate, you are the church. And we, the elder team desire to continue to (especially during this time) to equip you to live your life in the presence of God in a time when it may seem very difficult to recognize His presence.

Here's what this means for us for the foreseeable future..

President Trump announced today, that the recommendation for the next 15 days is for individuals to restrict the size of their gathering to no more than 10 people. It's important to state clearly that these restrictions are in no way an issue of religious persecution, rather, it's simply our government and medical professionals at the center for disease control giving us practical steps in order to flatten the spread of this dangerous virus. We know that most of the people that come into contact with Coronavirus will eventually recover, but the elderly, men and women with immunodeficiencies, other health issues, and women who are pregnant— are very vulnerable to this virus and the mortality rate goes up significantly in this people group. We are listening to our government because we believe this this is an issue of biblical justice and a very tangible way to love our neighbor well.

So, beginning this Sunday, we will equip you with a liturgy to use in your home, with your family. (If you would like to gather with another family and keep your gathering under 10 people we would just encourage you to follow the CDC's guideline for sanitation protocols.) By Friday of this week, you can expect to receive an email with a digital liturgy, complete with 2 songs with YouTube/ I-tunes links, a link to a video with a short teaching, a guide with questions for discussion, and some resources to teach your little ones if you have them.

While being disconnected like this is difficult, it is encouraging to think about homes all over our city coming together at 10 am on Sunday morning singing, worshiping, and praying together for the glory of God in Nashville. I'd also ask that over the next few weeks that you would take some time to specifically pray for the Lord to bring a quick resolution to this pandemic— that His healing power would sweep over our nation in a wave that is quicker and more powerful than the one that brought upon us this sickness and pain— and that Christ alone would get the glory.

These times of disconnection are going to be difficult, no doubt. We want to be diligent in giving every opportunity to be seen and heard. If you have a need, please reach out to your MC leader, or one of the elders. We are also putting a plan in place to do some regular check-in's with everyone. We are here, and want to care for you during the days and weeks ahead.

Family, I want to close by simply saying that you are so loved. I am so grateful to be part of this church family. The times are difficult, and will possibly prove to be even more difficult in the coming weeks, and maybe even months. But Jesus is building his church. He is at work in us and through us to make his glory known. Blessings to each of you.

Pastor Shane (on behalf of the elder team)