

Corner of River and Rhett

The Session has approved the following notice because of abundant concern over the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Beginning today all future Sunday Worship Services and Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study will be conducted online only.

All non-worship church related activities are suspended until further notice.

Ministry Leaders will be encouraged to develop online strategies wherever possible.

Staff will work with Officers, Ministry Leaders to facilitate ministry.

This includes transitioning to different approaches:

- Koinonia Ministry (volunteers will receive updates from Barnetta Stephens.)
- Sunday School Classes
- Sunday School Community
- CATKids
- Youth Group Events (High School & Middle School)

Suspended until further notice:

- Unnecessary Church wide Gatherings of any kind involving more than 10 people.
- Wednesday Night Supper
- Church Directed Evangelism (Downtown Bible Study, EE training, Good News Club)
- Spring Membership Class & Communicants Class
- Nursery
- WIC/Ladies' Bible Studies, Circles, Fellowship
- Men's Bible Studies
- Member or Church Group Functions (luncheons/gatherings)
- 2020 Missions Conference
- 2020 England Summer Mission Trip

We invite every member to log in to spcgreenville.org "Touchpoint" church management system to be up to date with the congregation.

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY

March 22, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 & 11:00 am (Livestream Worship)
www.spcgreenville.org

THE GOSPEL "If"

Colossians 1:21-23
Hymns: 431, 165, 483

Anthem: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP

6:00 pm (Livestream Worship)
www.spcgreenville.org

PREPARING TO WORSHIP

2 Chronicles 2:1-18
Hymns: 103E, 402, 183
Psalm 69A: (6-9)

Dr. Richard D. Phillips preaching

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The Second Presbyterian Church
Corner of River and Rhett Streets
Greenville, South Carolina

March 16, 2020

Letter from the Senior Pastor Pastoral Reflections on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Crisis

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth"
(Ps. 121:1-2).

The sudden arrival of pandemic has intruded on the peace of our lives. It is hard to know at this moment what the coming weeks and months will hold. But God's people know that our Lord remains unchanged in His power and grace. Christians therefore may respond to fear and distress with the confidence of Psalm 46:7, "The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

First, let me pass on what we know about this virus. Even in the past day, a clearer picture has emerged. The virus spread from Asia to Europe, so that Italy, Spain and other European nations have experienced a rapid crisis. Clusters now have formed in the United States, especially in major cities. We can be sure that since the Coronavirus now has reached South Carolina, including Greenville, its spread will be extremely rapid. Wherever one person brings the COVID-19 virus, soon many have been infected and through them a far greater number. Often the person carrying the virus does not know he or she has been infected until after already spreading it. This means that we must all respond to government calls to practice social distancing with the utmost respect and compliance, with no gatherings of fifty or more people (a number that is likely to be reduced). While it does not seem that the spread of the Coronavirus can be stopped, if its spread can be stretched out over a longer period of time then our medical resources may limit the number of deaths.



The staff of Second Presbyterian Church met today to discuss the implications of this situation for our church. We plan a meeting of the Session's Administration Committee as soon as possible, with their recommendations to be approved by a virtual meeting of the Session. For now, in compliance with our Governor's instructions (and even more with President Trump today saying that we should limit gatherings to 10 or fewer people), it is evident that all ministry gatherings of Second Presbyterian Church will need to be canceled or performed virtually (that is, via the internet). The staff is developing plans for as many of our ministries as possible to be conducted online. Likewise, I have asked Pastor Bailey to work with our Koinonia Ministry to develop plans for the pastoral care of shut ins and other needy members. You will be receiving detailed information on these and other matters in the coming days.

For now, let me offer these pastoral reflections:

1. Please take this health situation very seriously, if for no other reason so that you will not be a carrier of this virus to others. The spread of COVID-19 is extremely rapid, so the less movement we have in our society and the less contact we have with others, the more we are loving our neighbors. Especially if you are over the age of 65 or otherwise have compromised health, please consider limiting your movements to a minimum, as this virus most seriously affects older people.
2. Let each of us look for opportunities to love and serve others, consistent with health requirements, remembering the call of Philippians 2:4 – "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." People will be gripped with fear, so pray with and for them, and inform them of a God of grace who looks after those who belong to His Son. Be prepared to share scarce resources with others in need. We can expect COVID-19 to make a strong impression on our children, so let our families communicate a confidence in the Lord and exercise a great fervor in prayer. We know that God uses all things – even the Coronavirus – for the good of His people (Rom. 8:28), so let one of these good things be a renewed confidence that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39).
3. Let's aspire that our time under the Coronavirus would



see an upturn in the prayers of God's people that matches the spikes in this infection. Let us gather in our homes for regular times of prayer, asking the Lord to protect our families and members, to restrain the rate of transmission of COVID-19, and for the compliance of our community with the sound counsel that has been given by our government. Let us pray especially for our civil leaders, for medical professionals who will be stretched to the limit of endurance, for school teachers who have a demanding situation on their hands, and for businesses and people who are likely to experience special financial hardship. Let us pray for God to awaken this nation to its need to embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord so that many will be saved. Please also pray for your church leaders to make wise and godly decisions and to be able to respond to ministry needs that will arise.

4. Let's be prepared for gospel conversations with our unsaved friends. Events like the Coronavirus shatter the secular worldview of progress and prosperity. Let us gently remind our friends that this world is not the safe home we may want it to be, but that Jesus Christ offers eternal life and freedom from judgment with God through faith in His atoning blood.

While the Coronavirus has descended upon us unawares, it has not occurred apart from the knowledge and sovereign rule of the God who cares for us. Let me encourage you, therefore, to set an example to your non-Christian family and friends of the difference that faith in Jesus makes. Please communicate to us your needs and be watching for church notifications via email. Let us pray for one another and for our poor world, standing amidst this crisis with hearts uplifted by God's mighty Word. I will be praying for you all. May the Lord bless you. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1).

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Phillips



SECOND

C. S. Lewis on the Coronavirus
by Matt Smethurst of The Gospel Coalition
Used with their permission

It's now clear that COVID-19 is a deadly serious global pandemic, and all necessary precautions should be taken. Still, C. S. Lewis's words—written 72 years ago—ring with some relevance for us. Just replace "atomic bomb" with "coronavirus."

In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. "How are we to live in an atomic age?" I am tempted to reply: "Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents."

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.

— "On Living in an Atomic Age" (1948) in *Present Concerns: Journalistic Essays*

Weekly Prayer Guide

PRAYER REQUEST

Nothing is more powerful than the prayers of God's people. If you need prayer or know someone in need of prayer, please send your request to our church office at info@spcgreenville.org or call at (864) 232-7621.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. ~ I Peter 3:12

Worship

Pray that we might worship the Lord in spirit and truth.

Pray for God to give deep joy in Himself with genuine love and affection.

Pray for God-centered, Christ-exalting, Spirit-filled, Bible-saturated worship.

Pray for faithful, bold, loving, clear, Biblical preaching.

Pray for faithfulness to & fruitfulness from family worship.

Pray for greater delight in the Lord's Day that we will delight in the Lord.

Pray for deeper joy and trust in God reflected in earnest, sincere prayer.

Missions

Pray for the success of God's Kingdom & the thwarting of the kingdom of Satan.

Pray for a desire for God's glory, compassion for the lost, & zeal and boldness to proclaim the good news.

Pray for workers to go into the ripe harvest and for God to draw His elect to Himself.

Pray for gospel success & the reign of Jesus over all the world (cf. Rev. 7).

Pray for the Lord to open the hearts of those who hear the gospel.

Pray for God to sustain and deliver persecuted Christians around the world.

Pray for joy in the Lord, faithfulness, courage, finances, wisdom, zeal, compassion, protection, patience & good health of the missionaries we support.

Fellowship

Pray for an increased love, mercy, and patience towards one another.

Pray that our fellowship would be joyful and edifying.

Pray for stronger and deeper bonds with one another in Christ.

Pray for greater assimilation and community.

Pray for widows, the home-bound, the depressed, the discouraged, the diseased.

Pray for faithfulness to Christ for the PCA, Calvary Presbytery, & the Church universal.

Discipleship

Praise God for graciously convincing us of our great sin & our gracious Savior.

Pray for devotion to loving, learning, and living the Word of God.

Pray for faithfulness, kindness, purity, humility, & sacrificial love in marriages.

Pray for sincere faith, spiritual maturity, holiness, & humility for our children.

Pray for faithful stewardship of God's grace & gifts for the good of the Church.

Pray for an awareness of our need that we might be a people of prayer.

Pray for humility, holiness, faithfulness, contentment, wisdom, repentance.

Pray for elders and deacons to stand firm in the faith & not compromise.

Pray for fruit in the life of our youth and children.

Pray for our children's Sunday School and those who teach

Pray for our Wednesday catechism club that the children will learn sound doctrine.

Pray for those in the nursery that the next generations will set their hope in God.

Pray for the men's and women's ministry that there might be spiritual maturity.

Pray that God would grant us to enjoy in experience what we grasp by faith.

Pray that we would understand more and more our need for God's mercy.

Pray for faithful, kind, pure, humble, selfless love in marriages.

Pray that we would grow deeper in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

Pray for love, patience, & humility to learn and submit to the Word of God.

Pray that we would grow from difficulties & sufferings and accept them from the loving hand of our Father.

Pray for wisdom to live as citizens of the City of God in the city of man.

Pray that we would be those who walk humbly with God.

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following shut-in member. Also, send her a note of encouragement.

Georgie Campbell
27 Riverview Drive
Greenville, SC 29611

Praying For One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following members.

JD and Renee Cancino
Josh, Ethan, Sophia, Abby, Valerie

Mike and Diana Carey

Stu and Priscilla Carmichael

Missionary of the Week



Rev. and Mrs.
Jegar Chinnavan
First Asian-Indian PCA

Rev. Jegar Chinnavan is a PCA (Presbyterian Church in America) ordained minister. He received his M. Div. from Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Th.M. from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. He is married to Jemima for 19 years and has a daughter Sheena who is 15 years old.

Jegar Chinnavan is from Singapore and was converted out of Hinduism. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.Sc. in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and worked in several multi-national technology companies before attending seminary to prepare for the call to minister the Gospel to people of his ethnic group.