



Greetings South River Family,

I hope and pray that you are all doing well.

I know that these times are not what anyone had expected. We are in unforeseen and unprecedented circumstances. No one alive has faced a worldwide pandemic like this.

This has called for us to take precautions of staying away from others – social isolation. While fear and panic; has caused a run on grocery stores with people stock piling meat to toilet paper. This has further escalated the emotions of fear.

It is times like these that you and I have a great opportunity to rise to the occasion and let God's glory really shine. In times of uncertainty and turmoil people are hungry for something consistent and stable. God is the same today that He was yesterday and will be tomorrow.

If we as Christians, remain calm and let the peace that only comes from the Grace and Love of God shine so others can see. We are also called to be a witness to the world by word and deed. We do this by first heeding the Public Health Guidelines and remaining as separated as required. We also do not add to the panic by engaging in panic buying and hoarding. I'm not saying that we do not make realistic purchases needed for 2 weeks to a month. I also encourage you to be as polite and courteous as you can when dealing with people, they are also stressed.

All of the normal routines that we were used to have changed; even the way we do church and ministry. No one could have imagined that when we entered the Season of Lent that we would all be giving up so much over the next few weeks. Even as we look at Easter, the way we do things will continue to be altered. Some government officials have stated that we may still be dealing with some of these changes for up to a year.

One of the upsides for us at South River is that we were already sharing our worship services on Facebook live. I have been in conversations with several other pastors who have found themselves scrambling to figure out how to have worship. While we will continue to have worship on Facebook live, we are also seeking ways to have live drive in worship. This will allow us to see other people in our church family face to face even if we are separated by space and glass. I want everyone at South River to know that we are still going to be engaging in ministry that will give glory to God. We are starting to have the weekly Bible studies online using an online interactive program called Zoom. The

more proficient and familiar we become with these programs, we will share with more of our members to continue to expand interactive opportunities.

I also really want to encourage all of our members to reach out to others within our congregation to check in and visit with by phone. This helps us to maintain our church family. It also helps to know if someone is having problems. While you may not be able to solve their problem you can always reach out to me and I will work on helping to overcome them. I always available to speak to anyone.

In Esther 4:14, Mordecai tells Ester that, and who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

Now is the time for us to shine. We have one of the greatest opportunities to advance the cause of the kingdom that any of us have faced. Let us use this time to introduce people to the saving grace and love of Jesus.

With our focus on God we shall get through this. God can turn the bad and uncertain times to His stable everlasting Arms.

Build new routines. Stay Safe. Spend time with God.

Peace and Blessings

AJ