



# SAINT ANDREW'S CHAPEL

A Reformed Congregation

March 13, 2020

Dear Saint Andrew's Family,

The Session of Saint Andrew's Chapel held a special meeting this week to review the most up to date information regarding the new coronavirus (COVID-19) and to respond to the recommended directives from Florida's governor and other local governing officials to limit mass gatherings throughout the state of Florida. We continue to stay in contact with state and local officials as we monitor this rapidly changing situation. The Session is united in our concern and care for the spiritual and physical well-being of our entire church family, and we continue to strive to follow our biblical mandate to shepherd and serve the flock of God, for He is our ultimate authority.

Therefore, at this time, we have decided to livestream our worship services on Sunday, March 15, at the usual times of 9:30 am, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm. All non-essential gatherings, such as adult and children's Sunday school, Tender Care, and Nursery, will not be meeting or taking place this coming Sunday. We are planning to provide electronic versions of the orders of worship services along with copies of hymns to all those who plan to join us via the livestream. Additional information and instructions regarding the livestream will be sent by Saturday evening. Please note that this livestreaming option is being offered only during this unique season of heightened concern due to the recommended directives of our governing authorities on account of the coronavirus.

It is our sincere hope that these measures will encourage many of our fellow congregants to consider joining us in worship through the livestream, particularly those among us who are considered to be at higher risk of contracting illnesses.

However, should you decide to attend worship in person in the sanctuary, please note we are planning to put in place additional safeguards to maintain a safe and clean environment:

- High traffic areas in the narthex will have hand sanitizer stations available, with the main doors between the narthex and sanctuary remaining open throughout the morning in order to minimize the touching of door handles. Certain entrances to the sanctuary will not be utilized.
- Offering bags will not be passed during the services, instead there will be designated baskets at the rear exits of the sanctuary and narthex for collecting tithes and offerings.
- Evening Communion on March 15 will have bread and wine offered in such a way that participants can partake of the elements without touching surrounding bread and wine.

- Pew back materials and books will be removed to limit the number of objects where germs could potentially accumulate.
- Hymns to be sung in worship will be printed on paper and made available.
- Attenders will be encouraged to maintain safe distances from others and to abstain from handshaking or other unnecessary physical contact while greeting of one another and should consider bringing their own personal hand sanitizer.
- We plan to suspend the serving of refreshments under the covered pavilion between services.

These and various other measures will be put in place in order to help ensure that we are doing all that we can to reduce the risk of potential exposure.

As with other illnesses, it is important to continue to follow good hygiene habits in order to strive to keep yourself, your family, and others safe and healthy. Here are a few important practices by way of reminder:

- Please stay home when you are sick or feeling unwell.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with tissues or, if tissues are unavailable, with the crook of your elbow.
- Strive to avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least twenty seconds.
- If going out, consider bringing your own hand sanitizer or wipes for personal use.

Additional prevention steps from the CDC can be found [here](#), and recommendations for older adults and those with chronic medical conditions can be found [here](#). Please consult your doctor or a medical professional with any questions or concerns related to your health.

Additional updates regarding future Lord's Day worship services, changes to church operations, and cancellations of other events will be communicated through email as well as through our website.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this situation as we strive to serve you and glorify God. Let us continue to pray to our sovereign and gracious God for all those who have been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the world as well as all governing authorities and agencies, first responders, and the entire medical community in our nation and throughout the world.

The Session of Saint Andrew's Chapel