

March 12, 2020

## What You Need to Know

The following actions are effective through at least the end of March:

- **In-person Sunday worship services are suspended. Instead, worship with us via livestream at [our website](#).** Only a core group of essential personnel (including pastors, speakers, worship teams, and tech support) will be on site, with no child care provided. Those on site will be asked to maintain a six-foot social distance.
  - **All smaller gatherings are suspended.** These gatherings include but are not limited to youth and adult fellowships, Sunday School, children's ministries, the nursery ministry, Wednesday night prayer meetings, and other trainings. Please contact your group leaders for detailed information.
  - **All non-CGBC ministries are suspended.** These include but are not limited to Bible Study Fellowship meetings and Moms in Prayer meetings.
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Dear Chinese Grace Bible Church Family,

## Worshiping the Lord and Obeying the Governor

The Lord commands us to regularly gather to worship (Hebrews 10:24-25), and it is our joy and priority to obey Him in this. There is no place we would rather be on the Lord's Day than worshiping with the Lord's people.

However, the Lord also commands us to submit to our governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17). Today, Governor Newsom released [Executive Order N-25-20](#), ordering all California residents to follow any orders and guidance of state and local public health officials.

This means we must follow [new guidance from the California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#), which includes the following, effective through at least the end of March:

- Large gatherings that include 250 people or more should be postponed or canceled.
- Smaller gatherings held in venues that do not allow social distancing of six feet per person should be postponed or canceled.

## Changes in March 2020

We do not want to act in fear or panic. But out of love for neighbor, submission to our authorities, a priority of the health and safety of the most vulnerable in our community, and a desire to be above reproach, we are following [the example of church history](#), and have made the difficult decision to take the following actions, effective through at least the end of March:

**In-person Sunday worship services are suspended. Instead, worship with us via livestream at [our website](#).** Only a core group of essential personnel (including pastors, speakers, worship teams, and tech support) will be on site, with no child care provided. Those on site will be asked to maintain a six-foot social distance.

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## A Time to Serve Others and Hope in Christ

We will assess the situation and keep you updated for April.

This is a confusing time. But it is also a time for the Lord's people to live as His people.

It is a time to serve others. Share the gospel and your goods with your neighbors. Reach out to the elderly. Pass along church updates to less tech-savvy attendees, and help them livestream services. Point the anxious to the Lord. Call one another. Stir one another up to love and good deeds.

It is a time for us to be responsible neighbors. Practice good hygiene. Stay home if you are sick, especially for the sake of the most vulnerable. Stay informed of the latest health updates from the [CDC](#) and [CDPH](#).

It is a time for us to pray for our leaders' wisdom, our neighbors' health, and the spread of the gospel.

It is a time for us to show that our ultimate hope is not in the stock market or our physical health; it is in the Lord.

Five centuries ago, the Heidelberg Catechism asked and answered the most important question:

### **What is your only comfort in life and in death?**

That I am not my own,  
But belong—  
    body and soul,  
    in life and in death—  
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,  
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.  
He also watches over me in such a way  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven:  
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him,  
Christ, by His Holy Spirit,  
assures me of eternal life  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready  
from now on to live for Him.

Christ was their hope then. He is our hope today.

So let us continue to hope in and live for Him today.

In Christ,

The Executive Board of Chinese Grace Bible Church