



cherry creek pres

**To our Cherry Creek family and friends of faith,**

This is my fourth email on the Coronavirus, as information and factors continue to develop. The Session of Elders met yesterday for prayer and discussion. We measured what has been asked of us by our government and health care leaders. We sought to listen well to our God-filled physicians, to each other, to Scripture, and to the Holy Spirit. Our discussion was broad and many imperfect options were examined and prayed over. It is—as no surprise—a complex and quickly-shifting time for Kingdom decisions. Thankfully, we came away fully united in some short-term decisions for Cherry Creek. It is our desire to over communicate, so thanks for bearing with us. Please read carefully the details below:

1. **All church events are canceled for the next 2 weeks, starting today through Saturday night the 28<sup>th</sup>.** There are no exceptions for things which were scheduled to meet in our facilities, including Preschool and various group meetings.
2. **There will be no in-person worship services next weekend, including Saturday (21<sup>st</sup>) and Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup>).** We will offering an option to worship online.

This is a difficult choice. As leadership, we are unified and without fear. We sense Jesus is clearly with us. We also recognize that this cancellation decision comes with a great cost, both in Kingdom events and relationships. We know that our enemy rejoices when people of faith are divided, isolated, and not worshipping together. Yet, it is an unprecedented season for us. This, too, shall pass. As leaders, we also remain totally committed to glorifying our Lord, strengthening our Body, growing our faith, and frustrating the enemy's plans during this time. We

see this as an opportunity to better dial into new ways to connect with and love on each other. Hebrews 10:23-25 has this charge:

*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

While the Greek word used here for “meeting together” often means *assembling together*, it can also speak of *unifying together, gathering together in prayer or in heart, and seeking Jesus together*. In our modern world, there are ways we can keep doing this when “assembling together” becomes difficult. We can continue to encourage each other and “spur one another on to love and good deeds”. To this end, the leadership is united in the following positive actions, starting soon:

3. **We will post our weekend worship service next weekend for anyone to watch.** Join in at the link on [www.cherrycreekpres.org](http://www.cherrycreekpres.org) then click the blue "Watch the Weekend Service" button. The Holy Spirit unites us across any distance, so please worship with us.
4. **We will hold a prayer time in the Sanctuary next Sunday at 8:45 am if you desire to come and pray.** We will work to maintain all health-safety precautions during this time consistent with the recommendations of health officials. If you are sick or at-risk, please stay home.
5. **The Deacons, Elders, and staff will be personally calling every family in our church to check on you and pray with you.** This has not been done at Cherry Creek for many years and is a great opportunity. If we have your contact information, you should expect a short phone call. You can check your information on the [Digital Directory – Elexio](#) to make sure it is current or contact the church office 303.779.9909. We don't want to miss *any* members or attenders.
6. **We are setting up “love drops” for people who are quarantined, sick, or unable to shop.** If you need something like prescriptions or groceries, let us know and we will do our best to have someone drop it by. Email us

at [lovedrop@cherrycreekpres.org](mailto:lovedrop@cherrycreekpres.org) We are a family, and unafraid if you need a visit. Let us know if you are available to help.

7. **With modified staffing, the church office will remain open.** We are here if you need anything: 303-779-9909.
8. **The church Sanctuary and Chapel should be open for personal prayer daily from 7 am to 6 pm.**
9. **We will be emailing out a “daily prayer guide” to unify us in our prayers.** Please use this to pray with our church leadership and friends during this crisis.
10. **We will also be emailing out a family and faith “home worship devotional” to use for your personal or family worship times in these two weeks.** As well we encourage home groups and small groups to meet at their own prayerful discretion and use prescribed precautions.

You can help us in some church-life things, as well. These are important to us!

- Take care of yourself and avoid any unnecessary exposure risks.
- If you hear of someone who is struggling in any way, let us know.
- If you can continue giving your tithes and offerings, please do so. This season will put an enormous strain on our budget—so online giving or mailing a check would be a blessing.
- If you are aware of people who are out of this communication loop or in some way isolated, please reach out and forward this information on to them.
- If you can help with “love drop” deliveries, please email us at [lovedrop@cherrycreekpres.org](mailto:lovedrop@cherrycreekpres.org)
- Please pray each day with us. Our first prayer together is below. Would you pray it out loud today?

*Lord Jesus, watch over our church and our families. Keep us healthy, holy and faithful. May this crisis bring out the best in us, not the worst. Help us to live by faith and not by fear, and to build bridges rather than barriers. Help us not to be so*

*consumed with our own lives that we forget our connections and responsibilities to each other. Show us ways of keeping in touch and offering reassurance; remind us to pray with and for each other. We put our faith in you, because you have proved your faithfulness time and again. We reaffirm our love for you because you have never let us go. Amen.*

Things will, in all likelihood, continue to change. The Elders will continue to regularly pray over and decide the next steps we are to take. Please continue to pray for us. We will keep you updated. More emails will follow. Let's talk to each other more, encourage each other more, and pray for each other more than we have ever done before. Let us cast our worries on the Savior and Sustainer of our lives! Let us be the church, unafraid! The challenges are great, but our God is greater!

**Serving a Living Jesus with You,**

**Pastor Brad Strait, Lead Pastor, For the Session**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Strait". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "S".