

CORNERSTONE CHURCH OF IONE CANCELS UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

Cornerstone (Ione) folks: The Amador County Health Department has issued a directive concerning the covid-19 (corona) virus for our county. This is not a suggestion, but an order that comes with a criminal penalty for non-compliance. This directive calls for the cancelation of all events involving more than 250 people, or certain accommodations for groups smaller than 250 people. Our Sunday services fall into that last category. The requirements are that we must provide for 6 feet of clearance between individuals or family groups. ***At this time***, we do not have a way to ensure that this happens, although we are currently developing a plan for instances such as this.

The Pastor and Elders have been deliberating and praying over this decision for hours in efforts of determining what we believe is a Biblical response. While we desire to gather the church family together again this week, we do believe that the Bible gives us direction on this decision. Christians are to live at peace as long as it depends on us, we are to submit to governing authorities; good and corrupt. In addition, we are to obey the laws of the lands. In all these things, as long as they do not require us to violate God's moral law. We do not believe that this is an attack on the church as this prohibition applies to schools, businesses, sporting events, and public events including church gatherings. Furthermore, we do not believe that it would be breaking God's moral law to cancel our large group gathering on Sunday mornings for a short period of time.

Therefore, we have reluctantly decided to cancel our regular Sunday morning services for the remainder of the month of March. Our plan would be to be back at Cornerstone on April 5th with our regularly scheduled services. During this time, we are considering many creative options for gathering in smaller groups in various ways including Live Streaming the services, adding music, offering, and communion to our small groups, or adding more services all as temporary options for instances like this. In fact, we hope to finalize an alternative plan before next Sunday, so watch for additional announcements this coming week. As for now, the sermon will be posted Sunday on our website at Cornerstoneione.org!

We strongly encourage all Cornerstone folks to seek out a small group where we can still connect with the Cornerstone family, pray together, study the Word, and generally meet those spiritual needs we all have. If you don't know where you can find one of these groups, please call the church and leave a message (209-274-4131). This is also a good time to get connected into one of Cornerstone Church's official Small Groups! Let us know if we can help with that as well.

In the meantime, please be wise in your interactions with others. Protect yourself and them by frequently washing your hands, not touching your face after touching common surfaces or other people, and avoiding contact with others if you have any signs of illness such as a runny nose, cough, or fever.

And please contact any church leader if you have special needs we can help with. It would also be wonderful if you would check up on brothers and sisters who fall into that at-risk group. Let us keep being the body of Christ even in this short time where our Sunday mornings are interrupted.

"God has not given us the spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment." (II Timothy 1:7)
We seek to respond out of love and prudence, not fear. God is good. All the time!