



Canaan Baptist Church

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Dear Sisters and Brothers

I join you in our common concerns regarding the effects of COVID-19, which is being referred to as the coronavirus. Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe respiratory diseases. While much uncertainty still exists regarding the virus, here are a few quotes posted on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website:

- Reported illnesses from the virus have ranged from very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death. Information collected so far suggests that most COVID-19 related illnesses are mild.
- Older people and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions — like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example — seem to be at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness

I am writing to encourage you not to be governed by fear. As believers, **2 Timothy 1:7** teaches ***“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind.”*** Please do not allow fear to inhibit you from completing your daily responsibilities, fulfilling appointments, and attending church activities.

We are also charged in **Proverbs 8:33** to ***“Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it.”*** Here at the Gem of Germantown, we are being proactive by deep cleaning and repeatedly sanitizing high volume contact surfaces such as doorknobs, railings, handles, push plates, etc. Additionally, we have ordered extra hand sanitizing stations to supplement our existing supply. Upon delivery, they will be strategically positioned throughout the church campus. When entering the campus, it is recommended and kindly requested that everyone apply sanitizer. We have posted Hand-wash guidelines in every restroom and in other strategic areas. Lastly, when we gather for bible study, prayer, worship, and other ministry, we are requesting that everyone avoid handshaking. Waves, smiles, and elbow bumps are just as effective to convey our affection for each other.

**OVER**

### ***“The Gem of Germantown”***

To help contain and combat the virus, please continue to practice everyday preventive behaviors as listed below:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%-95% alcohol.
- Cover your mouth when coughing and your nose with a tissue. Use your bent elbow, when you cough or sneeze. Routinely clean frequently touched objects, especially cellphones.
- Maintain at least 3 feet between yourself and anyone who is coughing and/or sneezing.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- If you have fever, cough and/or difficulty breathing, seek medical care early.

If it becomes necessary to adjust Canaan's daily schedule of events, any changes will be noted on our website or social media platforms, or you will receive communication via text, email, or telephone.

One Last Encouragement: let's continue to look out for one another within the body of Christ, and for our neighbors, co-workers and friends. Even if you aren't concerned, there are likely others around you who are. Let's continue to be in prayer for the recovery of those who are ill, the medical teams caring for the sick and, for those who are working to contain and combat the virus. Even if the worst projections never materialize here in Philly, many around the world are already being affected. This is an opportunity for the Church around the globe to show the love of God, as we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Until we meet, be blessed!

*Pastor Brennan*

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