Dear South Highland Family,

I don’t believe any of us could have predicted events to unfold as they have in recent days, but I continue to be encouraged by God’s Word and His people. Now, more than ever, we need each other. Thankfully, we live in a technologically advanced society with many ways to stay connected. In coming days, SHC will be as creative as possible in using social media, email, the website, and even “snail mail” to inform, encourage, worship, and share prayer needs and concerns.

We will attempt not to *over* react or *under* react. The changes we have made and will continue to make in the days/weeks ahead are done after much prayer and consideration. My personal responsibility as your pastor is to care for and protect the church. I don’t take precaution for me. We take precautions for us: the healthiest of us, the youngest of us, and the oldest of us.

As you pray for me and the leadership of South Highland, please know that we are praying daily for YOU, as well. I encourage you to join me in doing three things:

**1.** ***Worship***. Even though we cannot meet together corporately for a while, we can worship God individually (in our private time with God and in our homes) and collectively (with our families and on social media live feeds). Utilize this unprecedented time to make giant strides in your faith. Start a new Bible study, begin a prayer journal, or even start (or restart) family devotions. I encourage you to be disciplined in your daily walk with the Lord.

**2.** ***Give***. Don't miss this opportunity. Our daily life and routine have been interrupted, but responsibilities and bills continue. Be faithful in your giving to South Highland, and be generous in your giving to others in need. SHC does a wonderful job at this, and I will continue to look for ways we can make a difference in our community *during* the COVID-19 crisis. Also, SHC has three ways you can continue to give to your church, even when the doors for meeting are closed:

A) Mail your check to the church.

B) Give online by going to our website ([www.southhighlandchurch.org](http://www.southhighlandchurch.org)) and click the **Give Online** button in the top right hand corner.

C) You can text your giving to **256-500-8961**. (For example, if you wanted to give a tithe of $100, you would simply text 100 tithes to the number above.)

**3. *Act***. What an amazing opportunity God has given us to ***Be the Church***! Brainstorm ways your entire family can make a difference during this time. I am confident that even in desperate, uncertain times, God wants us to shine our lights brightly. He is still **Great & Mighty**, and our world needs that message now more than ever. Use every opportunity you can find to safely share the hope and peace we have in Him.

I will be posting FB live sermons on Sundays and Bible studies on Wednesday nights. Let me challenge you to watch either “live” or at a later time. In the meantime, here are some things to pray for daily over the next several weeks:

* Those battling the coronavirus, both patients and medical personnel (James 5:14-15)
* Those who have experienced loss (Philippians 4:4-13; 2 Corinthians 4:8-10)
* Missionaries and international partners (Psalm 121)
* Strength against fear and panic (Psalm 46:1-3)
* Leadership decisions and direction (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
* The hope of the gospel made clear to a frightened world (Psalm 85; Matthew 28:18-20)

We know that God uses difficult seasons to get people’s and our nation’s attention. I’m praying for God to do what He always does: redeem awful situations by using them to draw people closer to Him. We know that God is in control and He will see us through. May our eyes stay focused on our Savior. I will continue to pray that God will do **Great & Mighty** things through us individually and collectively as a church through all of this.

Praying for you,

Pastor Chip

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