

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Greetings Beloved.

We are truly living in unprecedented times and these times are exposing some uncomfortable things for us as our Nation. Pillars that we have built have quickly crumbled. Securities that we have relied upon have suddenly shattered. Comforts that we have enjoyed have rapidly fallen. If we fail to see God at work in the midst of all of this — we will miss out on one of the greatest opportunities in human history.

As I have been praying and processing through these times, as well as talking with pastors and leaders around the world — the Lord has shown me that right now, He is using what we are going through to expose:

- The Tower of Babel that we have built in the Church.
- The Golden Calf that we have worshipped in the Church.
- The false sense of togetherness that we have in the Church.
- The lukewarmness of the Church.
- The prayerless'ness in the Church.

I do not say this with false hope or out of religious hype; but I believe the Lord is using it all and going to continue to use it all to bring about a great Revival. A Revival of *new birth* and a Revival of *returning home*. Like we see with Joseph in Genesis 50, what was intended to harm us, God is using for His purposes and for His good. He is positioning His Church for something great globally, so we cannot afford to shrink back. But just like with Joseph, it just looks different than anyone would have thought. Which means that we have to learn how navigate these unprecedented times by listening to the Lord like never before. So although things are crazy and uncertain right now, we have to realize but also seize the great opportunity that we have. And right now, we have an opportunity:

- To love & serve our community that is in chaos, panic, & fear with comfort, peace, and faith.
- For Dads & Moms to lead and disciple their families in faith from their homes.
- For homes to become houses of worship & prayer like in the Early Church.

A question I have been asking myself is *'what do we want to be & look like when this thing ends?'*

Make no mistake, we would be foolish to return to our old ways, patterns, and ways of thinking, doing, and being once this passes. (And it will pass. In fact I believe it will pass sooner than we think). My answer to this question continues to be: **Like the Early Church in their unprecedented times, I want us to be more PRAYERFUL and MORE TOGETHER in our unprecedented times!**

*So what does this look like going forward at and for Venue Church?*

Rules and regulations are changing daily and we are doing our best to keep up with them at all levels (national, state, county, and local) and then effectively communicate our plan of action. Regardless of if we agree or not with the rules and regulations, **we need to be good citizens in a season of difficult times**, just like scripture tells us. So as of today, although it looks different, I am expectant for a powerful move of God, as we lead our neighbors, community, state, and nation with faith through these unprecedented times.

### **Locations:**

**::Hayden: As of last Friday, the building is closed through the end of March, so we will not be gathering together until further notice.**

**::Steamboat: As of Tuesday at 8am, the Chief is closed for 30 days per Executive Order by Governor Polis.**

Because both of our locations are closed and the current rules and regulations that are in place in order to limit the spread of COVID-19; we have to pivot to a new way of gathering together during this time. This is all new to us and we are in uncharted waters — but that does not mean that we *'go overboard'* & *'abandon ship'*. We will continue to gather together, IT JUST LOOKS DIFFERENT.

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1) We follow the rules & regulations being set (we will communicate any changes as soon as we hear them and have a plan in place). This is not a reaction to fear; but a response of love. We push forward with faith and we will not shrink back in fear (again: IT JUST LOOKS DIFFERENT).

2) We move to an in-home, online model.

- On **Sundays at 10am**, we will live stream a message from Pastor Garrett via the Venue Church Facebook Page.
  - At the end of the message, we will respond to God in Worship through communion and song as usual.
  - Please have communion elements (bread/crackers and juice) ready; you will lead and receive communion together in your home. It is critical for us to continue coming to the Lords table together.
  - A worship set link will be provided in the live stream comments of our Facebook Page. You are more than welcome to do something different, but we want to continue to respond to the Lord in Worship despite where we are and how it looks. There is a lot of incredible Spirit Filled and Spirit Led worship available and let's thank the Lord for the resource of technology to be able to join with other people and churches in worshipping Him, whether its recorded or live.
  - A vKids Curriculum will be emailed to you via our CCB Database and an online like will on our website. Click on the scrolling image that says ***In-Home Church*** (other online resources will be on that page as well)/ We encourage all parents to take this time and be proactive in teaching and discipling your kids.
  - We encourage having an at home watch party with other friends and family. Gather together, hear the word, and worship. Remember: *where two or more are gathered...* (but no more than ten) — *He is in our midst*. Maybe eat breakfast together. Although we want to be smart and aware of others — we need each other and to continue gathering together. Again: IT JUST LOOKS DIFFERENT. Although we have to be isolated from our normal ways of gathering, we have to fight being isolated.
  - \*\*\*We ask for your patience and grace as we navigate these new uncharted waters.
- **Weekdays**: we will post a Radiant Church Prayer Meeting to our Facebook page everyday.
  - We encourage everyone to participate in worshipping God and crying out to God for a breakthru with your family, in your home.

**Beloved: We have an opportunity to develop a culture of the presence of God in our homes. Let's do it.**

3) We meet needs!

- God has put us in strategic places and relationships to meet needs. If you can, meet them. If you need help, invite and ask others to help. If you have a need, tell someone and let others meet that need.
- We will be working hard to administrate meeting needs as we hear of them. Meaning that you may get an email about an opportunity to meet a need for someone. This may include getting groceries or medications, a project at a house, etc. Let's not miss out on this great opportunity to love and serve our neighbors, nor miss this great grace that the Lord is gifting us during this difficult time.

While in prayer the other day, the Lord said to me ***'do no allow this VIRUS to hinder or halt the VISION I have called you to.*** So although it looks different right now, we will continue to PRAY. SERVE. & GATHER. with expectant faith.

For the Lamb.  
Pastor Garrett