

Dear Highland Community Church Attender,

This communication contains important information. Please consider reading all of it. Thanks!

Let us start with a few verses from God's inspired Word:

- Joshua 1:9 **“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go!” Amen!**
- Psalms 23:4 **“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (the darkest valley), I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”**
- Psalms 27:1 **“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid.”**

God truly is **“the stability of our times”** (Isaiah 33:6). Let us rely upon HIM!

We know God is sovereign, He is in control (He is!), and He is worthy of honor! Part of honoring our God includes both wise actions as well as honoring the public authorities He has placed over us (Romans 13:1-7). Wisconsin's Governor, Dr. Evers, declared a “Public Health Emergency” in Wisconsin due to COVID-19. He asked all assemblies over 250 to cancel in order to prevent further spread of this virus. He did not, to my knowledge, offer a definitive time limit for this request (although such requests, nationwide, are coalescing around 30 days).

Because HCC loves our broader community, and HCC loves our immediate faith community, and we seek to be good citizens, HCC will be suspending services that might exceed 225 people through April 9th. This includes: **All** Sunday morning services (and Sunday School) at the campuses in **Wausau** and **Weston**, Young Adults and Third Monday both on Monday nights, and all Wednesday evening activities in **Wausau**.

Even if our locations for worship change, we can all make worship our priority! At HCC we will offer:

- 1) For Weston and Wausau Campus attenders, we are offering live services at **8:00 a.m.** at both our **Merrill** and **Marathon Campus sites (please note the locations)**. The campus sizes of these sites will naturally limit attendance to under 225. Please choose one of the 8:00 a.m. services if you desire to join us.
- 2) For Weston and Wausau Campus attenders, we are also offering our services on our **website** (www.highlandcommunitychurch.com), **Sunday mornings, starting any time after 10:30 a.m.** Please consider gathering with your family, your small group, or other small groups for worship.
- 3) For Merrill and Marathon Campus attenders, we will continue your normal services, at your sites, including Sunday School (9:20 a.m.) and worship (10:30 a.m.). You can also join us via the website!

Please know: this is not capitulating to any particular political persuasion. No! This is a sincere, prayerful response which seeks to honor God, to love our community, and to honor the authorities God has placed over us. Thank you for trusting that this is our motivation! My naval officer dad drilled into me that real leaders lead—they balance all the facts, they prayerfully think through the alternatives, and they make the best decision with what they know.

Finally, a few suggestions for all of us (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html):

- 1) Pray rather than panic. God is on the throne! He has not left His throne!
- 2) We want to be wise and prudent rather than reckless.
- 3) We want to show love and support to those who end up sick. We are the body of Christ!

We will seek to re-evaluate prior to Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday.

God's grace to you, Jeff Hinds