Guthrie Grove Family,

I am sorry to say, that the elders and I have decided to cancel in person worship until the end of the month unless something changes in the safety parameters put out. We will keep you updated regularly. This was a difficult decision to make because we love meeting together so much. But in the best interest of everyone we chose to make this decision. Here are a few bullet point reasons why we felt we needed to make this decision.

* The CDC and the government are restricting the size of gatherings in the hopes of slowing, to some degree, the spread of this virus. Romans 13 asks us to obey the governing authorities,

*"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves." Romans 13:1.2*

* We are going to try and follow what the authorities are asking of us. It was only a few days ago that Italy was thinking that the virus and the worry about it were overblown and, in that time, the epidemic had spread, and the hospitals became overwhelmed. That's what the authorities are trying to avoid, here in the U.S. We are the body of Christ, as God’s people, not a building; we can continue to be one, for a short time, without gathering physically.
* One of the main reasons for this decision is that, God forbid someone was worshipping with us that was infected, and didn't know it at the time, and our church became a local epicenter for a spread in this area. We would not be able to live with ourselves for that. Yet, on the other hand if nothing happens...then we've accomplished what the authorities hoped for, by not meeting together!
* Another reason is that, we want to be a good example to those in our community. To many it may appear that we are not considerate of the community by continuing to meet in a way, which at the present, is deemed to be risky. So, we feel that taking a few weeks off is a loving act towards our community. Whether it was truly needed or not; and we won't know until this is over if it was needed or not. So, we have decided to play it safe rather than be sorry later.
* We as the leaders of the church feel this is the right thing to do.

So, we will be streaming services on Sunday mornings at 11am on the Guthrie Grove website (guthriegrove.org) we hope that you will get on and watch it with us. If you cannot join us at 11am, you can go to YouTube later and watch it.

We know that there is no decision that will be liked by everyone, but we have decided to err on the side of being safe. We hope you will understand and grant us grace as these are uncharted waters for all of us. Please consider continuing regular support through our website and PayPal or by sending it by mail.

Now to the important part! This is a time for the church to shine brighter than anyone!

Find ways to help people around you. Offer to shop for those who are risk and afraid to get out. Help care for children if you are staying at home and you know parents that need to work. Call and check in on each other. Try to buy from small businesses to keep them going during this time. If you get food delivered, tip well. Don't hoard. Find someone to share something with that is in need. Be gracious and loving while shopping. Be patient. And above all pray!!!

Pray about all of this. Pray for the sick. Pray for the nation and the economy. Pray for the leaders who are making decisions. Pray for health care workers. Pray for small businesses. Continue to pray!

Again, we'll keep you posted. Please share this with others who may not have much electronic media. The church facilities are just buildings we continue to be the church, the body of Christ. May you be blessed and we will see you soon.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Andy and the Elders