

NORTH AVENUE

presbyterian church

Dear North Avenue Presbyterian Church,

In our best effort to love our neighbors, our family and our friends, we will be **suspending all in-person gatherings of the church**. Each Wednesday we will re-evaluate the current environment with regard to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and will make a decision about church activities for the following week.

This, as we are all aware, is unprecedented for us so we are navigating uncharted waters in making these decisions. However, we are compelled by the messages from the Public Health community who are asking for the voluntary suspension of large, in-person gatherings for the purpose of slowing the spread of the disease so that our health-care systems and workers will not be overwhelmed by an uncontrollable outbreak.

This Sunday, we will live-stream one worship service at 10:00 a.m. with a limited number of staff leading. Please join us via this link: nafc.org/media

All meetings, youth group, small groups and lectures planned for this Sunday are cancelled.

The Women's Retreat, regrettably, is also postponed to a later date.

For now, the church offices will remain open until further notice and our Program Directors and Pastors will still be available to serve you in ministry. Most of our Administrative staff will be present to help direct calls and answer emails. We are also looking for ways to creatively lead and care for one another in this season, so please be on the lookout for online or phone call invitations to join one another in a virtual body of Christ.

We believe we are making this decision not out of fear but out of love. If this cautious behavior indeed has the social benefit of protecting the least of these among us ~ those who are older, who are immunocompromised or are otherwise ill ~ then we believe we are acting in a way that brings glory to Christ.

If you are worried, scared, or feel lonely, please be in touch with our staff, Elders or Deacons. We are family; let us care for one another well in this season of uncertainty.

There are several easy ways that you can contact us:

- a. Give us a call at 404-875-0431 and ask to speak to a member of staff. We will make time for you.
- b. You can use the prayer request form on the website at nafc.org/connect, and we will respond.
- c. You can email prayer@nafc.org and your prayer request will be received by our prayer leadership team.

We often look to the Psalms for guidance in these times and Psalm 46 comes to mind this morning:

Psalm 46 God's Defense of His City and People

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Blessings in the name of the Risen Christ, who was, who is, who is to come,

