

## Aspen Community Church's Latest Updates: Coronavirus

Dear Aspen Community Church,

I just got off a conference call with the Governor along with faith leaders from all around the state of Colorado. The purpose of this call was to gather as much information as possible about this virus and to work together to figure out next steps.

This morning in the Aspen Times, Jill Ryan, executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, asked the most vulnerable populations of our community (anyone over 60 years of age), not to attend social gatherings.

She went on to say that the state is focused on slowing the spread through strategies like social distancing to both avoid social disruption and keep Colorado medical systems from being overwhelmed with a high number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations all at once.

It is a time for us to come together in spirit for our wider community and in so doing...NOT come together physically.

We will be gathering together again in the not too distant future but for now, as of today, we are going to suspend all activities at Aspen Community Church.

This is a temporary situation and we will weather this storm. We will keep you all updated through future emails.

This is for the health and well being of not just this faith community, but for the wider Aspen community as well.

The Chinese character for "crisis" means both "danger" AND "a changing point" or "a point where things happen or change".

This will be an opportunity for Aspen Community Church to change how people view Christians and Christianity.

This event will provide us with an excellent opportunity to be Christ in the world. This will be our time to model what it is to live like Jesus every day of the week, not just Sunday.

I encourage you all to check on each other, call, text, FaceTime and email each other. Show compassion and concern for each other and to keep all our government officials in your prayers. Pray for those on the front lines of this fight; the first responders, the health care workers and all the researchers battling this virus.

Regarding being together in spirit, I have set up a YouTube channel. I will be broadcasting a message from that channel. I will be sending you a future email with a link. After the email is opened, you will be able to access the video at any time. I'm encouraging us to all access it together (in our homes) Sunday morning at 9:30. All that will have to happen is; you will get the email, in it will be a link, put your cursor on the link and click it. It will take you to my smiling face and a short message for the week.

My hope is that you will send me prayer requests throughout the week to goddoesntsuck@gmail.com and, like on Sunday, I'll read those out loud. We will then have a short moment of silence and end with the Lord's Prayer. I then encourage you to raid your own fridge. I would also like to remind you the camera adds ten pounds.

I'm sure this will be clunky at first. But we will get to the other side.

Prayer and compassion will be the order of the day for Aspen Community Church. I am certain there are some that are saddened by this news, maybe even angry. I share in both those emotions. I ask that you rise above those feelings, as I am trying to do, and meet this challenge head on. I ask that you be willing to engage your faith in a whole new way and on a whole new level.

I am so thankful for the people of this community and know we will get through this as we have everything else in our 130 year history. Together.

This too shall pass.

With love and all good things,

Jerry

Pastor/Chief Love Monger

Aspen Community Church

Aspen, CO