

Dear EPC family,

I pray that you and your families are safe and healthy. I am writing to you to update you on some important information:

1. STATE OF EMERGENCY

On Monday, March 30th the declared state of emergency in Ontario was extended by two additional weeks, with re-evaluation slated for every two weeks moving forward. Consequently all Sunday gatherings, midweek activities and programs are now suspended until further notice. The office is mandated by the government to be closed, but staff will continue to work from home. If you need assistance please call or email. Messages are checked regularly on the church voicemail during office hours - Monday to Friday from 9 AM until 3 PM.

2. OFFERING

These are difficult days economically for individuals and businesses and I know that most of us have been negatively impacted in one way or another. The month of March was a very impacting month for us at EPC. At the end of February we were meeting our projected income, but with the interruption part way through March, we ended up missing our budget income by approximately \$18,000. Our operating financial commitments remain unchanged for the most part, even though our circumstances have changed. Our missionaries still need support. Our benevolence commitments in the community are needed now more than ever. Our continued faithful financial giving is critically important as we navigate this challenging time. All amounts, small and large, add up to helping us navigate these uncharted waters. There are a number of options for continued giving:

- 1. Online Giving** - if you go to our website epcoakville.com you will see the Donate Button on the top right side - this will allow you to give using your credit card through Canada Helps. Canada Helps will receipt you for this donation via email immediately. Note - Canada Helps will keep 4% of your donation as a service fee.
- 2. Mail a cheque via Canada Post.** The mail is being checked regularly. **Do not put your offering in the mailbox by the Rebecca Street door.** This is not a secure place to leave funds unless a drop off has been arranged prior. If you wish to drop off your offering, please contact us to set up a time so we can safely receive your offering.
- 3. Call the office to arrange direct monthly withdrawals.** We can set up a monthly offering amount to be withdrawn from your account automatically on the 15th of each month.
- 4. Pick Up.** Let us know if you would like someone to pick up your offering and we will arrange a safe pick up that respects social distancing protocols.

- 5. E-transfer funds using your bank app.** We are presently working with our bank to make this an option for giving as we move forward. We will let you know when/if this becomes available.

3. PRAYER

We will continue with virtual prayer gatherings each Sunday morning at 11am using the same list that was previously distributed. You can also find it on our website epcoakville.com. Please set aside the time that you would normally be on site at EPC on Sundays to listen to the weekly sermon and then at 11 am pray on your own or with your family for God's protection and intervention during these challenging days. We have a number of people in our congregation that are front line workers, we have others that are awaiting their results from being tested, and some who have lost their jobs. Our missionaries are also facing some unique challenges during this time. One of the pastors in Cuba passed away this past week from the COVID-19 virus. If there was ever a time to pull together for prayer it is now.

4. CONNECTION

Staying connected is very important during this time. If you haven't already joined our FaceBook page please join so you can see regular updates. Please visit our website epcoakville.com for the weekly sermons, as well as regular updates. I will continue to send out weekly email blasts to keep you as informed as possible about what is happening at the church. Our different ministries will continue to creatively deliver resources and connection. If you would like a copy of 'Our Daily Bread' please let us know and we will arrange getting it to you. Please continue to check in on family, friends, neighbours and other church members to ensure they have what they need. Please let us know if you are in need of anything during this time.

Blessings!