



PEARCE CHURCH

Friday, March 13, 2020

Dear Pearce Family,

Although worship services will not be taking place in-person for the time being, we at Pearce are doing all we can to enable and encourage as much of the worship experience to be available via virtual venues. In fact, worship can happen anytime, anywhere! Although it will be different not coming together as a church family and we grieve this current situation, we hope you will participate in the various online and distance options that are remotely available, or soon-to-be available.

Among these facets of worship in which we hope you will prayerfully continue participating is worship through giving. Stewardship of our resources is a crucial element of how we as Christians demonstrate our faith and trust in the Lord, even or perhaps *especially* during the hardships and unknowns in life. That said, some of our beloved family and community members may be facing a loss of work or change in hours, which we know can quickly have financial impacts at home. Tithing is a spiritual discipline we believe is important and integral to our journey and testimony as believers. Therefore, we ask that you continue to give at your current level of giving in comparison to your income. If this is lower given your current circumstances, please do not feel discouraged by your tithe being lower for a season. If you find it on your heart to give even more during this time, we will welcome such generosity as well. We simply ask that you pray and continue to be open to the Lord's leading when it comes to the giving back of your financial resources.

We have several giving options available:

- Mobile giving is available from your smartphone. Simply text "GIVE" to 585-617-0773 and it's a simple process to either set up a one-time or recurring gift to Pearce via your debit or credit card.
- Mailing in or dropping off checks at the reception desk is another option. The reception desk is staffed from 6am-6pm Monday-Friday while Pearce4Kids is in operation. Please refrain from dropping off checks in person if you are not feeling well, exhibit any symptoms of the coronavirus, or if you are particularly susceptible to contracting an illness.
- Many banks and financial institutions can assist you with setting up one-time or recurring bank checks which are mailed to the church directly from the bank.
- Online giving is coming very soon as a giving option! When this is available, we will be sure to update you via various communication avenues so that you know it's up and running. If you are not on our NEUs or Pastor's Note email distribution lists, now is a good time to join! Simply send an email to pearce@pearcechurch.org and ask to be added to either/both of these lists.

During times like this, it can be especially easy to fall into an inward focus. While it is prudent to protect oneself, take precautions, and prepare as best we can, we do not want to be tempted into closing our eyes to the needs of those around us or succumbing to a sense of fear. Rather, this is an opportunity for us as the church body to be who we are meant to be! Therefore, some other financial considerations you may want to pray about as we aim to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those around us, even and especially during such a time as this, include:

- Consider buying groceries for a neighbor or dropping off some essentials to those most likely to refrain from venturing out these next few weeks. Another easy option is to pay for the person in front of you at the store or to give the cashier \$20 or so to contribute to the person's bill behind you.

- Consider providing childcare for a friend for free—whether schools close or not—it’s a great time to offer some time to parents who are likely concerned about the implications of the next few weeks on their work schedules. Even some time to grocery shop, attend a small social gathering, or grab a bite to eat could really help reduce stress for young parents.
- Consider being a stealthy support. This one can be super fun! Leave a prepaid VISA gift card in a friend’s mailbox with an anonymous note. This is an excellent option as these can be used for anything—even toward utility bills! Or, drop off a favorite meal or treat to someone’s doorstep who may be facing a loss of work in the coming weeks. It’s always great to include an encouraging scripture verse.
- If you know of someone who’s been ill recently, did you know that there are ways to anonymously help pay for their medical bills? Yes, it’s a thing! Call the hospital billing department to see what the process would be at that particular institution.
- If someone is currently ill, you can drop off a care box of get-well items on a doorstep or stop in quickly to pray over them. And then, of course, just wash your hands 😊
- Be creative! This is a time to come together and support those among us! And if you need some help, don’t be afraid to share your need with those around you. In fact, in my own home we recently realized we were very short on toilet paper and, as all the stores were clean out, my spouse was joking and bemoaning our predicament to a friend as they talked about other things on the phone. Next thing we knew, a pack was delivered to our house by that friend!

We all continue to be on the journey together. Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and faithfulness in giving—not only to Pearce, but toward the needs you may see around you. May the Lord display His provision and protection in life-changing ways during this time.

Honna Curtis, on behalf of the Finance Committee
Executive Administrator