



Grace Temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

Reverend Dr. Charles L. McNeil, Sr., Senior Pastor

Dear Grace Temple Member,

By now, I am sure you are aware that we are currently experiencing a global pandemic brought on by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). This letter serves as an update and response for you and our church community.

After consulting key church administrators, please know that we will comply with federal, state and local governing bodies, by canceling in-person worship services and meetings for at least the next two weeks beginning this Sunday, March 22, 2020. Some meetings will still take place, but through teleconferencing (not in person). Keeping you healthy and safe is of our highest priority.

As a church community, in addition to trusting in Jesus, here are some other ways you can respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Pray for mercy for the sick, strength for doctors, insight for researchers, and wisdom for church administrators. Look for opportunities to love and care for others, whether they are sick, isolated, quarantined, or filled with anxiety, and avoid any semblance of prejudice or racism against those wrongly blamed for this outbreak.

Although our church building will be closed, we the people are the “Church” and we will still be having Church. The blessing technology offers us is the ability to do that, even if its online. Each Sunday and throughout the week, join in, along with your family, friends and neighbors, to worship with us online by visiting the following:

— **Grace Temple YouTube Channel**

www.youtube.com/channel/UCTdXrxFap-715T822pp7_ZQ/playlists

— **Grace Temple Facebook Page**

www.facebook.com/gtbcChurch/

— **Grace Temple Prayer Line**

605-472-5416 / Code: 694107#

In case(s) of an emergency or specific prayer requests, contact your Sheepfold Deacon or call the church office and leave a message for support, or if you need to know who your Sheepfold Deacon is. For the next few weeks, the Church Office will have limited hours and the food bank will not be operational.

TRANSFORMING LIVES TO REFLECT GOD’S KINGDOM

15 E. Charleston Avenue Lawnside, New Jersey 08045 856-546-6130 www.gracetemplebaptist.org

Each week, on our YouTube Channel, we will post sermons, devotionals, songs, and other information for your spiritual uplift. Hear what God's Word says about freedom from fear, peace over anxiety, joy amidst sickness, and life that conquers death, and stay updated on members and those who are sick and shut-in. On our Facebook page, we will remain updated with one another and worldly events and offer encouraging words. And we will gather on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm beginning this Wednesday, March 25, 2020, for prayer on our prayer line.

Also, we are exploring mailing to each member a communion set, with the expectation of having an online communion service. As you can see, we are exploring many ways in which to maintain our church as a community. Our goal, as in everything we do, is to always glorify God as biblically and wisely as possible.

We also ask that you continue to faithfully give your tithes and offerings by using one of the following methods:

— **Online Giving**

Visit the Church's website at: gracetemplebaptist.org and click on the "giving banner". These gifts can be made by card or check through a secured Internet connection.

— **Mobile Text Giving**

Make your gifts by simply texting the phone number 856-238-5177 and the amount.

— **Mobile Giving**

Make your gifts by downloading the "EasyTithe" App onto your mobile phone.

— **Direct Bank Giving**

Contact your bank and setup Grace Temple Baptist Church as a vendor via your bill payment system.

— **Standard Mail**

Send your gifts through the standard mail (Please do not send cash).

— **Pick-Up Giving**

Call the church office and leave a message that you would like your gift picked-up from your home and we will make arrangements to have it picked up.

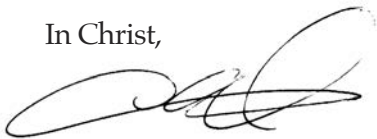
During this time, your gifts are sorely needed to help us meet our financial obligations so that the ministry of Grace Temple Baptist Church thrives all the more. In the midst of this global pandemic, we want to be a clear picture of God's love towards others. Even though we won't be gathering in person, we will do whatever possible to express what "church" really means by finding ways to remain connected.

In the meantime, encourage someone with a call; text someone an uplifting message; email a friend; or go “old school” and mail a nice card to someone that is a part of our church family. We ask that you continue praying for us during these unprecedented times, as we further consider alternate ways for staying as biblically and closely connected to one another as possible.

Finally, in the Book of Philippians, the Apostle Paul writes, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). In times such as these, let’s lean on our faith, otherwise fear and anxiety will persist. Remember, we are still the Church, even apart, and now is the time for us to be the Church like never before.

Stay safe, healthy, and connected.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. McNeil, Sr.', written in a cursive style.

Pastor Charles L. McNeil, Sr.

Senior Pastor

For more information on this current health crisis, visit: www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml