

# COVID-19 UPDATE



## COVID-19 LETTER FROM PASTOR DAVID JAMIESON | MARCH 17, 2020

Good Morning CIV Church Family,

We would like to take a few minutes of your time to talk about the impact of the COVID – 19 Pandemic. By now, you probably realize that we are all experiencing disruptions in our daily life and that we’re also in the middle of a major transition in the way we do church.

However, we want you to know that we have been thinking a lot about how best to serve you, your family, our church family, and community during the days and weeks ahead.

Your health and safety are our top priority and at the heart of every ministry decision, we make at Church in the Valley. We also believe it is critical for us to do our part as a church family to help reduce the transmission of COVID - 19.

Here are several important next steps we are taking in our COVID - 19 Action Plan to protect everyone in this ever-evolving situation.

- We will continue to diligently follow the guidelines shared by the Ministry of Health in our province to protect your health and wellbeing. The Ministry of Health just announced further restrictions on public gatherings to reduce the transmission of COVID -19.
- We will continue to take every precaution we can to reduce the transmission of COVID – 19 so our online worship experience will continue until further notice. So just to be very clear, we will NOT be

meeting at our CIV facility until further notice. Instead, we invite you to join us each Saturday as we gather together for an online worship experience.

- We have cancelled all scheduled CIV and AOK events until further notice and are requiring our facility rentals to do the same.
- We will follow the advice of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and transition to a Virtual Church Office Policy. So beginning this afternoon at 4:00 pm March 17 our church office at CIV will be closed. We will re-evaluate our Virtual Church Office Policy on March 27, 2020, to decide if it will need to be extended.
- If you need to contact our office you can do so by calling 604-514-8335, emailing [secretary@churchinthevalley.ca](mailto:secretary@churchinthevalley.ca), or by calling or texting Pastor Dave at 778-808-6317.
- Please remember that you can return your tithes and offerings online at our church website [churchinthevalley.ca](http://churchinthevalley.ca)

We are also equally committed to the wellbeing of our CIV pastoral team, church staff, volunteers, and their families. So, we are implementing the following best practices:

- We are requiring any staff or volunteers who are not feeling well to remain at home.
- We are requiring any staff or volunteers who have travelled outside Canada recently or have been in contact with anyone who has travelled outside Canada to self-isolate for 14 days.
- We are requiring all CIV staff and volunteers to work from home beginning 4:00 pm this afternoon March 17, 2020.
- We will be immediately pre-recording several sermon messages in our COVID – 19 message series for future streaming in our online worship experience.
- We are making plans to immediately develop online resources for our Sabbath School small groups, single moms, prayer meeting, etc.

While everything in the world around us seems uncertain, we want to remind you that we can take comfort in the fact that we have an amazing and compassionate God who promises to take care of us no matter what circumstances we may face in life.

The fact is that our God has not only promised to be with us when we face difficult times but that he has promised to be our source of hope and peace during this uncertain time. In the words of the Psalmist, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.” Psalm 46:1-3

So, no matter what we’re going through, no matter how dark it looks, we can be encouraged that the darkness will give way to light. Defeat will give way to victory! That our God knows only how to triumph! That our God never fails!

We can stand on the promises of our Great God! In fact, our God specializes in amazing solutions for all the problems humanity may face.

Even though this is sometimes difficult to do we encourage everyone with the words found in Philippians 4:6 which says “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

So even though we may not be able to gather together as a church family we are still ready to serve you through our church office telephone number, website, regular email communications, and our online worship experience. Our goal is to communicate with you regularly each week to be a source of support, comfort, encouragement, and hope.

Thank you for being a part of the CIV family.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Dave

**LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. SERVE THE WORLD.**