

From Bryan Meyers, Senior Pastor of Grace Community Church, Chico

This is a very interesting time we live in. No other time in my life have I experienced anything like this. I imagine you are thinking the same thing. It can create big emotion for people in our community. Fear. Anger. Insecurity. Sometimes all these emotions are experienced in the same thought. Through challenging times, I have found that Psalms speaks to our raw human emotion and points us to our true hope.

“Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.” Psalm 57:1 (ESV)

Family, this storm will pass... but how we navigate this storm speaks volumes about our faith. Every day we are preaching through our practice. That’s why we are so discouraged when we see grocery stores cleared of food items or people not loving each other well. As a church, we are going to take our anxiety to God (1 Peter 5:7), walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25), love through honor (Romans 12:10) and submit to the authority of our leaders (Romans 13:1-2). Our direction as a church is out of obedience to God’s word and our love for God and people.

In light of this, **Grace Community Church will broadcast closed services via Facebook Live on Sundays at 10:00am, beginning March 22.** We are adjusting the start of the service to maximize participation on Facebook Live and encourage community in this format of gathering. **We will not gather together for services on the Grace campus.**

Until further notice, no meetings or programs will be held on the campus.

All children’s and student ministry groups and programs are suspended until further notice.

The goal of all our groups and gatherings is to provide support and care for one another. As we walk through this unprecedented time, **we encourage you to reflect on how you can best support each other, while showing compassion for our community by protecting others from exposure to this virus.** Because most of our gatherings and groups are larger than 10 people and involve those who are vulnerable, **we encourage groups not to meet face-to-face for the time being.** We are so blessed to live at a time in human history when we don’t have to be in the same room to be present in each other’s lives. **Please allow your group leaders to give you direction in how to support each other in this season.** We trust their discretion in meeting the needs of our people.

During the weekdays, Grace Community Church will hold Facebook Live Broadcasts on a regular basis. During the feed, we will share a biblical perspective on current events, answer questions and pray for those who have need. Please be sure to “LIKE” our Facebook Page at the following link to be notified of these regular broadcasts:

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceCommunityChurchChico/>

In times of crisis, we have always stepped up as a church. The county has often looked to Grace Community Church to help meet the needs of people. At this time and with this crisis, we need to wait on our leaders and see what real needs exist and how the church can best help. **Let your anxiety and your desire to help be focused on meeting the needs of those around you and to pray for our community.** Once opportunities avail themselves, you will be the first to know!

No matter what news may come, our church will respond with faith and not fear. Our aim is to be compassionate in ministering to our people and responsive to the needs of our community. As things are unpredictable and ever-changing, know that God is not. In the days to come, may the supremacy of Christ be a source of peace to you and those you encounter. May you find comfort, peace and hope in God alone.

For the Gospel,

Pastor Bryan