

20th March 2020
DEAR CHURCH FAMILY

By Maurie Cropper

CORONAVIRUS: Our Church's Response



What we really need to know and remember is, that God loves us and that His word (the Bible) is the nourishment we need for our hearts and minds. And together with knowing Jesus truly loves us, we can have true hope, comfort and strength. Loving each other as God's family will bring us ever closer together, as we all focus on caring for each other over the coming weeks and months.

At Randwick Presbyterian Church, due to both the Government restrictions on social gatherings, and the most updated medical health advice from state and federal senior health officers, and our concern to love our church family and the wider community, particularly those with compromised health, our church gatherings need to change. This includes Sunday services, children and youth ministries, and even the manner in which our small groups meet.

Therefore, the leaders (Elders/Session) of church have decided to suspend Sunday Services, children and youth activities, including Mini Boppers, for the foreseeable future.

This decision was not taken lightly. Your church leaders, being Maurie, Kevin, and the Elders, prayerfully deliberated and considered all of the options in remaining 'open' or 'closing'. Please continue to pray for us all as we lead over the coming months.

We are recommending that Bible Study Growth Groups meet 'virtually', but each member and each group has the freedom to choose to meet face-to-face. If you choose to meet face-to-face we advise everyone to abide by the most current updated Health Department regulations concerning the Coronavirus. Bible Study Growth Groups are key in how our church family will continue to grow in God's word together, and how we continue to love each other.

We are very keen for everyone at Randwick Presbyterian to remain relationally connected, **so we encourage you to keep in regular contact**, whether you are comfortable in doing that in person or by phone or via Skype, Zoom, Face Time, WhatsApp, etc. In the near future we will be delivering into your inbox some further suggestions in being relationally connected.

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In doing all we can to keep connected, we are going to **LIVESTREAM** weekly a time of prayer, bible reading, and preaching. Either today or tomorrow we will be sending you (via email) a web link to our Livestream. We hope you will join us for our Livestream, and be encouraged by being together in this new era of doing church.

It is our plan also to **distribute regular emails with any updates**, bible readings, and prayer points. Plus we will be keeping our website updated with relevant information, along with posts on our RPC Facebook page (internal group).

We are also very aware that not meeting regularly as a whole church family each week will be a disruption to our regular financial givers who contribute by cash. As such, we encourage you to **consider online giving** or asking your bank to set up a regular debit. The church account details are BSB 062 230 & Account No. 00900257. This would be a wonderful assistance to our church budget.

With this present health emergency our lives have been greatly impacted, and our lives have been changed, especially in the way we 'do church' and now must work extra hard at continuing to Know and Grow in Jesus. ***Even so, we must take comfort and be fully assured that God does not change. God remains steadfast in His love for us. God is just and merciful and full of grace. Please read your bible daily, maybe a Psalm and a Proverb each day. Please pray for an end to this health emergency.***

As we in leadership seek to meet the ever-changing needs please uphold us in prayer, as you uphold our church family in prayer.

Please stay tuned to emails, to our RPC website, and to maintaining contact with one another. Maurie remains a phone call away and is willing to visit.