

Dear Chestnut Ridge Family,

There can be no doubt that we are living in an unprecedented time. The news concerning the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is as ever-changing as it is unpredictable. The Center for Disease Control, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, our governor and President have all issued guidance on how we as a people should proceed through these difficult times. We are being encouraged to limit our gatherings to less than 50 people; some entities are now recommending gatherings be limited to 10 people. While God does not give us the spirit of fear, and while we serve an all-powerful God, we are commanded in God's Word to have a spirit of wisdom.

With the uncertainty that we are facing as a church, community and nation, the church leadership, including the pastoral staff and Elders, have made some decisions concerning our church schedule as we deal with this virus. Please know that these decisions were not easy. I understand that these decisions will be met with a variety of responses. We make these changes out of an over-abundance of caution and with the most vulnerable among us foremost in our minds. With all of that said, we will make the following adjustments to the Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church schedule beginning immediately until March 31, 2020.

1. All Wednesday Evening activities including AWANA, The Refuge, and the Wednesday Evening Bible study are cancelled. The Pastor's Wednesday evening Bible study will be available online on the church's Facebook page and on the church's website at 6:15 each Wednesday evening.
2. All non-essential meetings and gatherings of the church are cancelled.
3. Sunday morning worship services will move to an all-online platform. One worship service will be held online each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. The service will be ONLINE ONLY. They can be seen on the church's Facebook page or on YouTube through the church's website at [chestnutridgechurch.org](http://chestnutridgechurch.org)
4. Our deacons will be checking on the families in their family ministry plan, in particular the elderly and those with underlying health issues.
5. We will also be offering to run errands to the pharmacy and grocery store for prescriptions and essential items for the elderly and infirmed.
6. The church office will maintain regular office hours to help ensure that we are doing all we can do to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our congregation.
7. All non-emergency pastoral care will be conducted via text and phone.
8. We are making the church building available for people who would like to come during office hours to pray for our church, community and country.
9. We are making the church's WiFi available to assist families who do not have internet so they can complete their online school work.
10. Even though we will not have church services on the Central or East Campuses, the financial needs of the ministry continue. If you are not currently giving online or via mobile giving, now is a great time to start! Look for the Vanco link here <https://onrealm.org/ChestnutRidgeBa/give/now> or on the church's website. If you have signed up for Realm you can access the giving link there. You can also give by texting ChestnutRidge to 73256. Some of you are currently giving via

SimpleGive. We encourage you to move to the Vanco giving app. It works just like SimpleGive, but integrates better and faster with our office accounting system. Vanco also offers a ACH (Bank Account) giving option. Using this option is completely fee-free for the church.

I believe that while these are uncertain times, we have a unique opportunity as the people of God to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. This is a time to share the love of Jesus by checking on your neighbors, calling a shut-in, texting an encouraging word to a friend or praying for one another. It is also a chance for us to point people to the Savior, Jesus Christ. Why not tell your story of hope to someone who is desperate for salvation?

Again I want you to know that these decisions were not arrived at without much thoughtful and prayerful consideration. I want to express my gratitude to the staff and elders for their leadership in these extraordinary times. I pray God's blessings, health and protection over each of you.

Because He Lives,

Rev. Alex D. Henderson  
Senior Minister