

March 17, 2020



## FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD 800 BAY AVE / TOMS RIVER / NEW JERSEY

### RE: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Dear church family

A top priority at First Assembly of God is the health and well-being of our guests and members. We believe in the power of prayer and His ability to heal, but we are also called to a place of exercising wisdom. Therefore, we strive to make sure we are taking necessary steps for those attending our services and events as we navigate through these difficult times. We also recognize and understand that the coronavirus is a serious health concern; therefore, I personally want to update you on some things that will be changing effective March 17<sup>th</sup> 2020.

I want to begin by expressing to all of you that we have closely monitored and are learning more about the coronavirus that causes respiratory illness every day. The latest developments and following the guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) has spurred on our responsibility to communicate with you effectively. Additionally, we had been seeking counsel and guidance from our leadership at the NJ District office of the AG and National AG headquarters in Springfield, MO regarding gatherings for our handlings of church services as part of the faith community. With new developments across the state of NJ and our country, we feel at this time that it is appropriate to discontinue our public worship on Sunday's and Wednesday. We will now move to digital services beginning Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> and continuing on for a span of two weeks ending on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Should we need to continue on further past this date then we will communicate that to our church family.

I am confident that these measures give you assurance that we are taking the necessary precautions in this evolving situation. We remain committed to prayer and believe that our great God would bring about a full recovery to this pandemic. Please lift up our nation and its leaders before the Lord during this time and do not walk in fear. Be smart, stay prayed up, use wisdom and trust God.

How we are proceeding forward:

1. **Messages** – We offer all of our services via Facebook Live on our church Facebook page at 10am on Sunday mornings and 6pm Wednesday evening. Click on this link to go directly to the page; <https://www.facebook.com/tomsriverag/> Follow Pastor Paul on his personal Facebook page for live daily updates and prayer times <https://www.facebook.com/pgiff23>
2. **Social Media** – You can download our church app – First Assembly of God Toms River and stay up to speed with all happenings and updates at church. <https://firstaogtomsriv.pushpayapps.io/apiv3/download>
3. **Giving** – It is through your faithful giving that we continue to do what we are called to do as a local body. On-line giving is simple and easy; just go to our website; <https://pushpay.com/g/tomsriverag?src=hpp>

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4. **Prayer** – If you or a family member is in need of prayer or have a need please contact Pastor Paul at 401 241-5278 and He will be glad to mobilize the intercessory prayer team to pray with you over the phone or visit with you once your request is made known. The doors of our church will remain open throughout the week for prayer during the hours of 9:30am-3:30pm.

We are looking forward to being with you corporately again in the near future. Peace is not found in a bottle of Purell, Peace is found in the Prince, whose name is Jesus! “Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts and minds” during this time. #Focus2020

For His Kingdom,

Rev. Paul Gifford