



July 24, 2020

Greetings!

I hope this letter finds you and your family well as we continue to navigate through uncertain times and circumstances. As most of you have probably heard by now, we made the announcement yesterday that **Grace Covenant Church in South San Francisco will not plan to hold in-person worship gatherings through the remainder of 2020.** We have not met together in-person since March 8th of this year. While this news may sadden many of you, I want to encourage you with a few reminders:

- 1. Grace Covenant Church has never “closed.”** There are 168 hours in a week and just because we have temporarily suspended the 1 hour gatherings we have been accustomed to on Sunday mornings, you can rest assured that we have not “closed.” In fact, GCC has been more active during the pandemic than we have been in a long time. We are still broadcasting worship services online through Facebook Live and YouTube on Sunday mornings at our normal time at 10:00 A.M. We are still meeting online during the week on Zoom to study the Bible and pray for each other. Our monthly food pantry ministry is still operating (Drive-Thru) on the first Saturday of the month to provide essential food items to our community. We are still providing resources for individuals and families in need that we alerted to. God is still at work and GCC has never quit fulfilling its mission to share His love and serve our community.
- 2. This is just a season.** The current suspension of our Sunday morning worship gatherings is temporary. With the rising rates of COVID-19 infections in our area and unpredictability of safely gathering in large groups, our leadership team has unanimously voted to cease our worship gatherings for the remainder for 2020. If something changes (i.e. a vaccine magically becomes available before the end of the year or the virus infection rates plummet in our area) then we will reconsider this decision. But we believe this decision allows us to plan for enhanced continued ministry and outreach to our community this fall. Instead of asking “when will things go back to the way they were?” we are now setting ourselves up to look ahead. We plan to re-launch our Sunday church gatherings in 2021 with greater momentum than we would have if we decided to do it now with all of the red tape. This will allow us to be more creative and innovative moving forward.
- 3. Speaking of innovation, here’s what you can expect this fall.** GCC will continue to offer weekly online worship services on Sunday mornings via Facebook and YouTube. Join us live to interact in the comments. We will also be adding a Zoom element on Sundays for greater connection. We will also be launching 3 new small groups this August called “**Beta Groups.**” These groups will be offered at different times during the week on Zoom and cover different topics such as Christianity 101, Marriage/Relationships, etc. Stay tuned for more information. We will also be offering more “on-demand” content for the busiest among you to consume and grow with. Children and families within our church will begin receiving delivery boxes soon with curriculum and other goodies to promote discipleship within families. Our teenagers will get to join a youth ministry network on Zoom made up of hundreds of other students all over Northern California. Needless to say, we are excited for the months ahead!

As we navigate these remaining months of 2020 together (albeit virtually), here are 3 things I would ask of you:

1. **PRAY** - Spend time daily growing in your relationship with God through prayer. Pray for your individual needs, your family, your neighbors, our community and our church.
2. **STAY CONNECTED** - These are still rough times. It can be easy to isolate yourself and loneliness, anxiety and depression are at an all time high. Don't "do life" alone. We are here for you. **PLEASE** stay connected with us. Let us know your needs. Join a small group for social sanity! We are stronger together!
3. **GIVE** - We still rely on your generosity to fund the ministries of our church. Finances are low and we desperately need more income to keep GCC sustainable past this year. Please consider giving if you are not already. We understand that times are hard on all, but as a faith community, we also put our trust in Jesus and give sacrificially as a way to honor Him. You can easily and securely give online at www.gracecovssf.com/GIVE. We appreciate your faithfulness!

Though it may not seem like it right now, I believe our best days are ahead of us. I am optimistic about the future of our church and I am excited to see what God will do this fall. I'm excited to see new families join during this time and spiritual growth that we will encounter together. Please continue to stay safe and let us know how we can serve you during this time. Prayer requests, comments, needs and feedback can all be addressed to gracecovoffice@gmail.com.

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

Jude 1:24-25 (ESV)

For His Glory,



Pastor Bearett Wolverton
Grace Covenant Church