

A Note from Pastor Jonathan

March 15, 2020

We are facing a global health crisis unlike what many of us have seen in our lifetime. What does it look like to follow Jesus right now?

The verse that is etched onto the cornerstone of our building is a great declaration for whatever life brings our way. Psalm 16:8—

“We have set the Lord always before us.
Because he is at our right hand,
we will not be shaken.”

Our focus is set. We see our lives, and our circumstances, against the backdrop of the Lord’s constant presence. When we keep our focus on him, even in the middle of a crisis, our confidence grows and we know “we will not be shaken.” That’s not a promise that we’ll be free from all fear or trials. It means that God’s purposes for my life won’t be thwarted. His plans won’t be defeated.

Think of the Apostle Peter when he was invited by Jesus to get out of the boat and walk on water. As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus, he carried on. But when his focus shifted to his circumstances, to the ferocious wind and waves all around him, his faith began to shrink and he began to sink.

So what are we called to in this time? Yes, follow the best instructions from medical experts. Heed the warnings we receive from government officials, whose role is to operate as God’s servants “for our good” (Romans 13:1-7). Pray for them. Care for others in need. Show grace to people who don’t share the hope that you have.

And keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. He is with you, will never leave you, and his promises for this life—and our future in heaven—are rock-solid for all who have placed their trust in him. So I invite you to pray with me today...

*Lord, whatever happens today...
...it doesn't catch you off guard.
...it doesn't diminish your love for us.*

*Whatever happens today...
...you are still bigger.
...you are still in charge.*

*Whatever happens today...
...you can bring good from it and further your purposes.
...you are with us and for us.*

Whatever happens today, we continue to choose to trust you.



How can we BE the Church?

Here are some opportunities
to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

OR BRING FOOD TO BEREA-MIDPARK MIDDLE SCHOOL March 17 8 AM - 2 PM

- cereal • cereal bars • granola bars • lunchables • applesauce • canned soup • canned + boxed pasta • yogurt • string cheese • Smuckers uncrustables sandwiches

DROP FOOD OFF AT BOTH GRACE CAMPUSES

Many organizations including the Middleburg Heights and Olmsted Falls food pantries are collecting food to give to those in need. Keep an eye out for more details coming this week.

CALL OR CHECK UP ON ELDERLY NEIGHBORS

Elderly people are at higher risk and may be isolated in their homes at this time. You can bless them with a friendly phone call and offer to help if they have needs.

GIVE OF YOUR RESOURCES

Grace has an Emergency Relief Fund in place for those in financial need. If you would like to contribute to this supportive fund, visit gracecma.org/give

PROVIDE CARE TO KIDS

With school not in session, many families in our community will need help caring for their children. Please contact bethany.bell@gracecma.org or kj.wilson@gracecma.org to find out how you can help.

