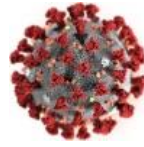




**Memo: Coronavirus, Update #5**  
**March 25, 2020**  
**From the Desk of Pastor Chad**



Good afternoon, New Song Family!

I greet you from a dining room table surrounded by 3 kids doing homework that their teachers sent them online. These times, they are a'changin'! As the picture I saw says, "What a year this week has been!"

I write you today to simply say, "Your church is hard at work." We've taken multiple steps to adapt to challenging times. I'd ask for your prayers and continued commitment to creatively come together in new, meaningful ways. Below is a list of moves we have been taking. If you see something we are missing, by all means, feel free to tell us. We are in this journey together and we're looking forward to having this separation become a **distant** memory!

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|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Worship:</b> Live Stream, 3/29 |
| 2. <b>Communications</b>             |
| 3. <b>Prayers</b>                    |
| 4. <b>Children</b>                   |
| 5. <b>Youth</b>                      |
| 6. <b>Staff</b>                      |
| 7. <b>Finances</b>                   |
| 8. <b>Security</b>                   |
| 9. <b>Small Groups/Connections</b>   |
| 10. <b>Missions &amp; Serving</b>    |
| 11. <b>Tommy's Birthday</b>          |

1. **WORSHIP:**

Drew Shaner, Juan Pineda, the Tech Team & Worship Teams have helped us stay up on all aspects of Sunday and mid-week worship opportunities. If you'd like to find the latest information, feel free to check out our **Facebook** page:

[www.facebook.com/growingnewsong](http://www.facebook.com/growingnewsong)

If you are interested in watching the **Livestream**, we are encouraging everyone to use our newest livestream system, you can access it directly (for less technical issues) at:

[www.vimeo.com/newsongumc](http://www.vimeo.com/newsongumc)

Our brand-new Worship Leader, Juan Pineda, started on March 1 – this has been a whirlwind of a start for his employment. THANK YOU, Juan, for your leadership, and to DREW for all you're doing to keep us live!

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** our second brand new hire is in the form of our Communications Director. JT Hosack began

in this role on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. (Again, *what* a time to join a staff when overseeing communications during a pandemic, no less!) We have been working hard, alongside staff and ministry leaders, to get everything out via email, Facebook, newsletters, the website and more.

[www.newsongumc.org](http://www.newsongumc.org) (check out the front page, the events page and the small group page)

[www.facebook.com/growingnewsong](http://www.facebook.com/growingnewsong)

To sign-up for any of our available services, simply go to the "Resources" tab at the top of our website!

3. **PRAYERS:**

If we can be praying for you and yours, helping in any way or if you have any needs, please be sure to be in contact with us via our E-Connect Card. Our weekly Prayer Chain is distributed to our team on Mondays. If we can be praying, connecting or helping you in any way whatsoever, please click here for immediate attention:

[www.newsongumc.org/connect-card](http://www.newsongumc.org/connect-card)

4. **CHILDREN:**

Our website has a ton of resources on it just for FAMILIES! You can find all kinds of links and activities to do throughout the week (songs, crafts, lessons, ideas for Palm Sunday, Easter and beyond) by going to:

[www.newsongumc.org](http://www.newsongumc.org)

Mrs. Amy is also posting a special "Wild Wednesdays With Mrs. Amy" object lesson on Facebook on Wednesdays at noon! Pastor Chad and other selected readers will be sharing a book on Sunday afternoons, as well. Stay tuned!

5. **YOUTH:**

We invite all of our youth to join for a ZOOM on Sunday and Wednesday nights with Mrs. Lesa!

Lesa is also meeting the youth through their phones each day for a Bible Study on the YOU version of the Bible. Our youth are participating in a Randolph-Macon opportunity via ZOOM on Sunday evenings. Ms. Lesa is visiting many of our youth (socially distant from others, of course!), as well!

6. **STAFF:**

We have moved to a Tuesday morning meeting on ZOOM! Our staff remains connected to both online updates that we have in the works, and we're working towards more and more use of technology to hold our positions in the best place that can serve God, our vision, mission, and YOU. Several staffers are adjusting their roles to fill the needs that "being remote" has created. Keep us in your prayers and continue to reach out!

7. **FINANCES:**

"Money, money, money." Well. It's what some of you say, and we're sensitive to the fact that many feel churches should **never** mention the word "**money!**" But, Jesus did. And so must we.

Financially, we were in a solid place when all of this started. Having funds hasn't always been the case for New Song: there were times in my first year when we had just \$2.76 in the checking account. I can't forget or unsee those days. Where we are now is this: **we are aiming to do more with less**. That's not new to the Coronavirus, but COVID-19 has been a HUGE reminder that every cent is precious in God's sight. We are being extra careful with your entrusted stewardship over Church expenses and accounts:

- All HVAC settings have been set to reflect a (primarily) empty building
  - Our staff and leaders remain under a spending hold for now
  - For ministries that have purchased items for events which have been canceled, we have returned those items at this time
  - We have transitioned as many of our mailing needs to digital platforms as possible to reduce postage
  - We have delayed all major purchasing to the fall
  - We have continued to creatively suspend normal operating expenses
  - We have clearly reduced our electric/power bills(!)
- It's not just about reducing expenses, it's also about teaching generosity, practicing social responsibility and helping those with a variety of needs (see below in point #10 for how you can help).
- YOU can be a BIG part of what GOD is doing right in our midst: as hardships, problems, concerns and reports continue to come in every day of reduced hours, lost jobs, layoffs, etc. requests for specific assistance will undoubtedly be pouring in as we're asked to **do even more with even less**. To be part of our community response, you can go this link (AND see Bullet Point #10!):

- o [www.newsongumc.org/give](http://www.newsongumc.org/give)
- o **You can also give through our app:**

On your smart phone, simply text the word **NEWSONGCHURCH** to **77977** and follow the prompts!

8. **SECURITY:**

Drew has not only been hard at work for worship and LiveStreaming needs, he has also been working with an electrician to surround our facility with a Christmas present: cameras at all facility exterior entrances/exits. Wave to us when you walk by (and don't spin gravel in our parking lot: the Lord calls us all to extend grace, but our Trustees anticipate vandals will need to plead for mercy from a judge!).

9. **SMALL GROUPS/CONNECTIONS:**

Many of our small groups have put the FUN in FUNCTIONALITY! We have some of the most amazing small group leaders and creative minds I've ever worked with – incredible! If you are not in a small group, we have lots of opportunities to get in one right now!

Please check out our groups at:

[www.newsongumc.org/small-groups](http://www.newsongumc.org/small-groups)

One **all-online** option I'll draw attention to is from Heather Shaheen. An interest and orientation meeting is being held tomorrow on ZOOM, Thursday, March 26, 2020. Heather is going to be offering this class on Thursdays at 12:30 & 6:30pm. You can learn all about this class by checking out this link:

[www.newsongumc.org/anxious-for-nothing](http://www.newsongumc.org/anxious-for-nothing)

We also continue to reach out to members individually. If you know of someone who might appreciate a phone call, card or check-in, please send their name and contact information to us through:

[www.newsongumc.org/connect-card](http://www.newsongumc.org/connect-card)

10. **MISSIONS & SERVING:**

It's not every day that our Church has a pandemic landing in our laps, but here we are. New Song has held a **Drive-Thru Packet Pick-up & Food Collection** on Friday, March 20. We were able to collect a great deal of items for local food pantries and the Backpack Ministry: THANK YOU so much to all who participated!

The **Backpack Ministry** has continued as a direct result of a great relationship Alan Fearnow has cultivated within church partnerships and local school administrations. A tremendous THANK YOU goes to Alan and the Backpack Ministry Team for this vital ministry and to the schools who are allowing us to provide this ministry!

We have fielded several questions about our **SOLES4SOULS** Shoe Collection... see below, but thank you to the many who have brought in so many pairs of shoes! We are collecting any size, in gently-used condition, men's, women's or children's shoes.

Our **Counseling Ministry** is led by Heather Shaheen and Kimbely Williams. Both counselors continue to serve an increasing load of clients by E-sessions and phone. (So grateful for these skilled services our Church can continue to make available to some of our most vulnerable.)

And speaking of our most vulnerable: New Song has continued to run **errands** and collect **groceries** and **prescriptions** for those who either *can't* get out (or *shouldn't* get out). If you have needs that we can help support in some way, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

[www.newsongumc.org/connect-card](http://www.newsongumc.org/connect-card)

I'll end by making you aware of a new effort we're doing called **HEARTS, HANDS & FEET SUNDAY**, April 5. The Bible calls us to be salt & light, to be the hands & feet of Christ... and now we're asking you to put all of these together. As we work to serve our community, you are being invited to help with:

- + A Drive-Thru **Gift Card** Drive: (anything that can help others in their time of need: gas, food, Walmart, etc.)
- + Soles4Souls **Shoe** Drive: remember - any sized pair of shoes in gently-used condition, adult or child
- + **KIDS** Packet Pick-up: we have a special treat for Kids just ahead of **Easter** – PARENTS: come on by and pick up a craft, lesson and a food item just for the KIDS!
- + Non-perishable food items: all items will again be collected & go to the Food Banks & Backpack Ministry

Come on by – no need to get out of your car!

We'll have bins for each item – pick-ups and drop-offs accepted between **3-5pm** on Palm Sunday, April 5.

For those who might prefer to give without leaving your house... here's another way to assist our community: Gift Cards can be sent to the Church directly via certain websites.

Kroger (which helps with both food and gas) is one example at:

<https://giftcards.kroger.com/our-store-cards/kroger>

Have your cards sent directly to the Church as the Shipping Address & we'll happily add your card to the stack.

These efforts will immediately make their way back into the community as we support local residents in need.

#### 11. TOMMY'S BIRTHDAY:

Today is my **Dad's birthday**; in fact, we have a lot of birthdays going on all over the place during this COVID-19 response. If this is YOU, you officially have permission to get a DO-OVER later on... I just preached about that!! Wishing everyone a Happy Birthday, Anniversary and Celebration if this is your time! (Happy Birthday, Dad!)

And with that... that's all for today! We're hoping to continue seeing you on our LiveStream and we look forward to SEEING you in person as soon as possible. Our love and prayers go with each of you – all the best!

Faithfully,  
Pastor Chad<><