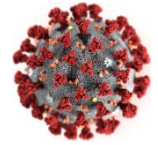




**Memo: Coronavirus, Update #7**  
**April 17, 2020**  
**From the Desk of Pastor Chad**



Greetings, New Song Family!

**I miss you guys!** I can't help it! I'm praying hard for each of you.

Every once and again, people will propose:

*"If God wants the Church to survive, God will make sure they have the money."*

Unfortunately, while this is true (that God will always make a way forward), it also positions God to be a bit of a *bank-robber*... or it makes God dependent upon a rich Uncle or a lottery winning.

That's just not how it works!

What is *actually* more in-line with Scripture is that God's people will always have opportunities to keep the Church strong and a top priority. Your support allows the Church to continue **sharing the hope of Christ**... in some cases with strangers or our very own members - even those whom we haven't seen in years and years. With God, no matter the circumstances, the impossible becomes possible.

The medical side of COVID-19 is documented, but the financial, emotional, spiritual and mental components will take quite a bit longer to respond to... and that's where the Church needs to have its best foot forward!

Here's a **Top 10** list of ways you can support the Church through this COVID-19 response:

1. **Pray.** It might seem trivial to some, but it's massive by all accounts. We need you to know: we haven't led through a pandemic before. We are all parts of families, decisions, and operations that require prayer – before, during and after this season, plain and simple. The Bible says to have the faith of just a mustard seed. A mustard seed is literally thousands of times larger than just one, tiny COVID-19 viral particle... imagine that!
2. **Tithe.** We depend upon your generosity and sacrifice. The Bible describes 10% as a target; some have chosen to "tithe in advance" in order to make sure expenses are being met, knowing that some are indeed experiencing reduced hours and paychecks. Your tithes and offerings have been instrumental in allowing us to expand our digital platforms for online worship (LiveStream.com, Vimeo.com), along with small groups and connections to the wider community (Church Community Builder, ZOOM, etc.).
3. **Support small businesses.** At New Song, you can support everything from hair stylists to coffee shops. We do not lack for local ways that need your support to stay open as small business owners navigate these tricky waters. We are asking all small businesses: send in your name, business, website and links for how our church can best support you (buy gift cards, provide take-out or curbside service, etc.). How can we help each other out right now?
4. **Stimulus checks.** Some of you will soon be receiving checks or deposits from the government. Where possible, some may indeed be able to slide a portion of this amount to the Church as we attempt to help members of our

community who report they are in crisis. This step immediately becomes “put to use” by those in our Church who have need.

5. **Unanticipated income.** Some have shared they’re experiencing *additional* income right now: over-time, canceled vacations or work trips, not eating out as much, not having to pay for childcare, etc. Just as some families are experiencing hardship, perhaps the thought hasn’t been as widely considered that some are also experiencing an uptick in their available budget. We would encourage the Church to be considered as you think through ways to pair resources with needs fairly quickly.

6. **Gift cards.** Right now, store shelves are running low on some of the most affordable items. From canned goods to packet and micro-meals, our stores and food chain has been caught off-guard. Food pantries are reporting low-stock and availability to needed items. People ask us every day, “Can you help?” We have mentioned Kroger as their cards can be used for gas, prescriptions and food, but all gift cards are proving to be needed. (In one day, we received \$500 in gift cards and had \$600 in requests.) We have faith we will see many needs met through this specific ministry. Often stores allow for gift cards to be purchased right from home (see below for 1 such example, in fact).

7. **Collections.** We are presently collecting non-perishable food items and gently-used shoes. The non-perishable food items will support our Backpack Ministry and local food pantries; the shoes are all going to [www.Soles4Souls.com](http://www.Soles4Souls.com). You can rubber-band the shoes (any size, gently-used). We are offering curbside drop-off dates; our next event is this coming **Monday, April 20**, from 11am-6pm.

8. **Support frontline and first responders.** It may surprise you what a warm meal being dropped off might do, but it helps on time, grocery shopping and clean-up! Maybe find a healthcare or frontline worker within your reach and mow their lawn, bake them a cake, offer to drop-off a meal or have DoorDash deliver their favorite take-out. We owe much to many who are often behind the scenes, be they in retail, grocery, healthcare, trucking, mail delivery, and more.

9. **Stay connected and creative.** *World Market* recently donated all of their un-purchased Easter items to United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) so residents might have Easter baskets. *Harbour Freight* donated all of their masks and gloves to local hospitals. One of our members just made a slew of masks for a local nursing home. We have a team of leaders right now reaching out to over 200 families in our Church. No one should go through this experience alone; how can **you** be part of reaching out and helping others?

**10. Sign-up for your purchases to support the Church.** Many of the ways you already live out your routines have a means to directly support the Church. Amazon provides the Church a portion of each purchase (once registered and connected to our account). Grocery stores do this promotion, as well. You can find out how to support New Song through these 2 websites – you’re only a few clicks away from supporting the Church!

[www.newsongumc.org/amazon-smile](http://www.newsongumc.org/amazon-smile)

[www.newsongumc.org/kroger-rewards](http://www.newsongumc.org/kroger-rewards)

Remember: biblically-speaking, Christ’s people always end up stronger after passing through difficult times – it’s been proven as fact time after time, page after page. Our task is to focus on how God wants us to point to hope, even during difficult times.

We can take comfort in remembering that when the stories are only half-written in biblical times...? Things consistently looked bleak. But from the halfway point to the end of the Biblical account, HOPE becomes alive more and more with each new development.

To view our **LiveStream worship**, simply click this link:

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

or try our **Facebook** page:

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

To donate/**give** to New Song's ministries and community efforts, go to:

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

You can also **give** through your phone via our app:

Text: [newsongchurch](http://newsongchurch) to this number: [77977](tel:77977) (and follow the prompts)

You can complete an **E-Connect Card** via our website at:

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

Sign-up For Your FREE **RightNow Media** Account Today:

[www.newsongumc.org/rightnow-media](http://www.newsongumc.org/rightnow-media)

**Monday, April 20, 11am-6pm**



Join us for a Drive-Thru collection for **gift cards**, gently-used **Shoes** and non-perishable foods! This will all take place on Monday, April 20th with collection hours running between 11am - 6pm!

Needed Items Include:

- **Gift Cards** can be dropped-off or ordered/mailed online (any that could be useful in this time of economic downturn)
- **Shoes:** any size, rubber-banded together, gently-used - for [Soles4Souls](#)
- **Non-perishables:** our local food bank appreciates any food items and/or supplies
- **Backpack Ministry:** pudding cups, graham crackers, ravioli micro cups, small tuna cans, Ritz or Saltine Crackers

We anticipate extra requests for our **Financial Assistance Fund** in the coming weeks. You can support this cause by going to:

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

(Select "Financial Assistance" when on the donation page from the dropdown menu.)

For those who prefer to give without leaving your house... **gift cards** can be sent to the Church directly via certain websites.

Kroger (which helps with pharmacy, food and gas) is one example:

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

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

God sees us; God holds us – stay safe, wash your hands, and carefully do your part – see you soon!

Faithfully,  
Pastor Chad<><