

Emmanuel Family,

I want to give you both a quick update and a preview of the Emmanuel short and long-term plan in light of our Governor's announcement on Wednesday evening. First of all, I am so grateful for YOU! The Emmanuel Family has pivoted numerous times in the last two months as we've moved completely online with our services, provided essential food for our cities, cared for the hurting, and gathered in groups via zoom! You are amazing, and I want you to know that I am looking forward to what God will do next!

Here's what to expect in the next few weeks:

1. We will gather online **this weekend** for worship and continue our series #Blessed. The whole series was planned months ago and is proving to be prophetically inspired for this moment. Please do what you can to join your church family, God is providing hope and purpose to us when we gather!

2. **Beginning Monday, May 18**, we can take our **first steps back into small gatherings** of 10 or less (the new public safety guidelines allow for groups of 10 or less) in/outside your homes. If you feel confident and can follow the new guidelines, you may choose to gather in person for your **Connect Group**. We also want to honor the personal choices of everyone who may choose to continue online.

3. **On Wednesday, May 20**, the state is expected to provide a new guide for businesses and churches.

- From the executive order: *"It is to be a "phased plan to achieve the limited and safe reopening of bars, restaurants, and other places of public accommodation beginning on June 1, 2020. This plan will be ready for presentation to the public no later than May 20, 2020."*
- Shortly following the release of the phased plan, we will notify you of the next steps for Emmanuel. Our plan will include a timeline of when we will open our buildings for services, which ministries will be on campuses, etc.

4. **Beyond the 20th**: We will continue to provide all of our ministries online. For many, this will be their chosen method of connecting with the church for the foreseeable future. Within Emmanuel, we have many people who are in a vulnerable category and we will continue to honor their place as full members of the family! We will also continue to consult with local law enforcement, medical professionals and community partners as we make our decisions about reopening our buildings for services.

We are making adjustments as we follow the leadership of the Spirit, this requires a real-time capacity for all of us to be at peace in our "now normal". The now normal is an ability to keep in step with the Spirit, live in confidence and faith, treat our neighbors as Jesus would and to keep our eyes open NOW! Jesus said it this way to his disciples, *"You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I*

*say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.” (John 4:35).*

Together in the harvest,  
Pastor Nate