



## NORTHCLIFF UNION CHURCH



Corner Dawn Drive & Pendoring Road, Northcliff



(011) 476-5643



office@nuchurch.org.za



NorthcliffUnionChurch



www.nuc.co.za

### **RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS – Impact on NUC ministries**

18 March 2020

The global spread of COVID-19 has seen an unprecedented reaction worldwide, and we in South Africa are witnessing the spread of this pandemic by the day. While not panicking in our response, our leadership is intent on taking responsible steps to protect the health and safety of our members and staff.

After extensive research and prayerful deliberation, the NUC Elders have agreed to the following actions:

#### **1. Sunday Services**

All three Sunday services will continue at their regular times. We will contain numbers in the auditorium to under 100, seating any overflow in a separate venue on site, with TV and audio. Tea and coffee will still be available for those who stay after services, served in disposable cups.

In addition, we hope to have live streaming of our services enabled by this Sunday. In addition (to counteract possible load-shedding) all services will be recorded and available for later listening, also on [www.nuc.co.za](http://www.nuc.co.za)

We will be making changes to our communion, offertory and paper handouts practices, which we will explain in service, to minimise transmission risks. Regarding your faithful giving to God's work, we would encourage you to make your giving via EFT or Snapscan.

There will be no Children's Church or Teen Church on Sundays until after Easter, but DVDs will be available for them to watch during the 10am service.

#### **2. Handshakes and Hugs**

We ask for your co-operation in temporarily changing the habit of physically greeting each other, for everyone's protection. Please do not shake hands or hug anyone until we are free of the risks, and therefore demonstrate our love for each other through this act of restraint.

#### **3. Cleaning and Sanitising**

We are implementing a dramatically enhanced protocol to keep our venues, surfaces and access points regularly sanitised. This will include hand-sanitising before services, and extra care of high-touch surfaces. Please co-operate as we offer hand-sanitising at the entrance doors. Sanitising soap is also available in the bathrooms, which we invite you to use.

#### **4. Impact on Ministries**

- Our Youth Ministries will be closed for the next month, and arrangements for after Easter will be communicated later. Holiday Bible Club will be postponed.
- Home Groups will be issued with guidelines, and will have the freedom to make their own decisions regarding their meetings.
- NUC-based Bible Studies will continue for the time being.
- Hot Potato evenings are cancelled for March and May, but will resume later.
- Seniors' ministries will be suspended indefinitely, because of their higher risk.
- WoW ministry is suspended until further notice.
- Mama Tribe launch is postponed. Ironmen suspended for four weeks.
- The Easter Cantata will be cancelled, but we hope to schedule another worship event later in the year.
- The 10 Hour Weekend will not take place in May but possibly later.
- The Library, Book Table and New Membership classes will continue.

#### **5. Care for People and Community**

- We realise that the spread of COVID-19 will create a very personal impact on families in our Church and community, and this is very important to us. We anticipate additional short-term needs in supporting NUC families directly impacted, and invite these families to reach out to our pastor of Church Care, Gerhard de Jager, and the NUC Care Team.
- With the increased likelihood of requests for nutritional assistance, especially for the quarantined or unemployed, we would be grateful for donations of dry food parcels and frozen foods to meet practical needs.
- We also anticipate increased needs among the vulnerable in our Windsor community ministry, and Stanton Jogannah will be working with his team and fraternal partners to possibly re-align our focus during this time to meet emerging needs there.

#### **6. NUC Staff**

- The health and safety of our staff is clearly an important priority, and we will be allowing staff to work from home where possible. Should you need to see any of them, kindly make an appointment via the church office.
- Please also understand the need for our staff and Care Team to protect themselves and their families by taking additional precautions to minimise the risk of transmission.

During a time of fearfulness, we urge believers to fix their eyes on Jesus and the peace we experience by depending on Him. Let us be in constant prayer for the vulnerable, and let our Church use this opportunity to be a light during these difficult times.