



COVID-19 Response Guide



REDEMPTION HILL
CHURCH



About This Document

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

First, we must acknowledge that we are in an unprecedented time of crisis. At the same time, we recognize a greater truth - that God is faithful and is working all things for His glory. Therefore, this is also a time of unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate the Gospel with acts of kindness, compassion, and prayer. We must be diligent to pray throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. Many of your family members, neighbors, and co-workers are battling fear and anxiety. Maybe you are as well. It's a natural response. But this passage reminds us that, in every situation, through prayer, we can experience and live in God's peace. Prayer is powerful and can lift the burdens of others, so they, too, may experience the peace of God. With Easter only being a couple of weeks away, we remember that Jesus bore our anxieties, fears, and sicknesses on the cross. Through the power of His resurrection, we have been given new life, a living hope, and abiding peace. Therefore, we can step forward in faith that God is with us as we seek to love and serve one another, our neighbor, and our city at this moment.

This guide aims to help RHC navigate the immediate coronavirus challenge over the next eight weeks (as necessary) as well as set the table for ongoing, active ministry beyond this period. To be clear, nothing is canceled, everything just looks a little different. We believe that God will sovereignly use this present time to deepen our faith as a church family, strengthen our bond of community with one another, and position us to show and share the love of Jesus to our neighbors in very meaningful ways.



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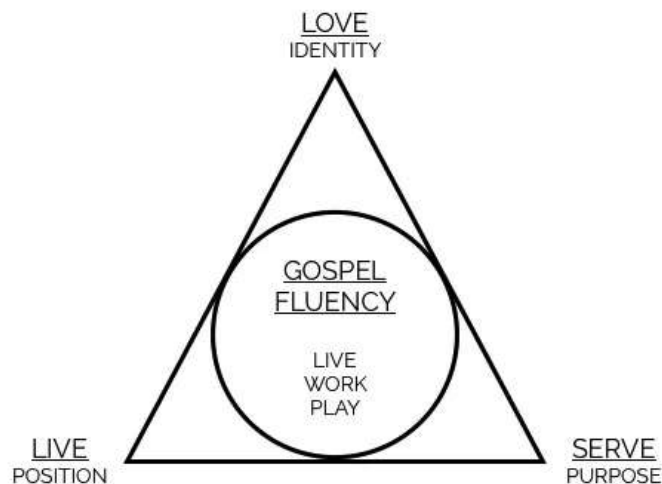
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Vision Mission Values

Our Vision Statement is Unchanging: We exist to love God, live life together, and serve our community to see Christ-centered transformation among all people where we live, work, and play. This is the framework in which we do all that God has called us to do as His body here at Redemption Hill Church for His glory.

Our vision begins with God. So, we believe that everything begins with God and what He has said through His word. Therefore, everything we pursue begins with Him and our response of love to His grace towards us.



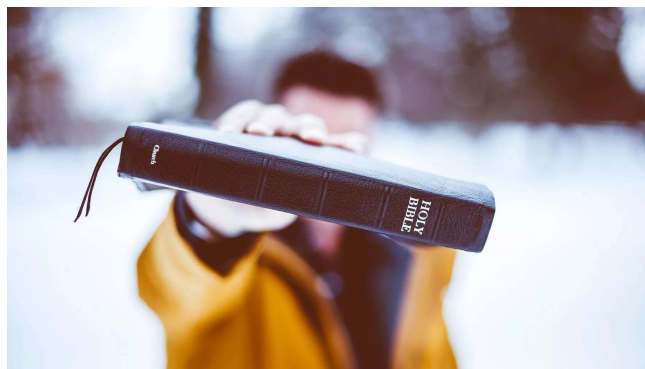
This is the framework in which we do all that God has called us to do as His body here at Redemption Hill Church for His glory. Our vision begins with God, and what He has said to us through His word. Therefore, any strategy that we pursue begins with His love for us and our response of love to His grace towards us.

LOVE GOD:

Intentional Devotion

LOVE - Intentional Devotion: Our personal devotion is essential for understanding our identity in the Gospel and how it changes all that we are and do.

In Christ, we are redeemed. He gives us all that we need for joy, fulfillment, purpose and meaning. We believe in our own strength that our greatest longing can never be fulfilled. Therefore, we seek to know Christ deeply by devoting ourselves to His word and by leaning on Him through prayer. The Bible tells us that genuine faith comes by hearing and responding to the genuine truth of God's word. Whether we hear it through a Sunday sermon, discuss it in a small group meeting or read it at home, devotion to God's Word is essential for understanding our identity in the Gospel, and how it changes all that we are and do. As we depend on Christ in all things through prayer, His strength is released through our weakness, and we are transformed by His Spirit.





LOVE GOD: Intentional Devotion

During the next eight weeks, we will continue to cultivate intentional devotion as a church family through:

Personal Devotion: In Acts 2:42, we see that the early believers devoted themselves daily to God's Word. It's the Word of God that transforms our hearts. A study from the Center of Bible Engagement found that people who consistently engage God through His word at least four times a week experienced a decrease in the following negative emotions: loneliness decreased 30%; anger reduced 32%; bitterness down 40%; and spiritual stagnation decreased 60%. It was also found that people became more missional -- sharing their faith increased by 200% and discipling others by 230%. It is very clear that reading Scripture not only brings joy to our lives, but we begin to influence those around us with the Gospel as well. In order to encourage and support our personal devotion in God's word, the following resources are available on our website:

www.redemptionhill.net/other-resources

Bible Reading Plans | Prayer Guide

Recommended Reading List | Sermon Archive



LOVE GOD: Intentional Devotion

Sunday Morning Worship: Scripture is clear (Hebrews 10:25) that consistently gathering together to worship, pray, and hear God's word as one Church family is vital to our mutual walk with God, our joy in Him, and the mission we are called to as His body.

For the next eight weeks the RHC family will be "gathering" digitally online together each week at 9:45am (times may be added) so we may continue to experience worship and build community with one another.

Daily Devotion: Each day, Monday-Friday the Elders will post a short daily devotion walking through Scripture on both Facebook and YouTube.

Weekly Podcast: Every Wednesday we will air a video podcast to discuss how we can live out our faith on a practical level during this time. We will cover topics such as: How to Be a Good Neighbor, Emotional and Spiritual Health, Family Dynamics, How Do I Get Involved in My Community While Maintaining Physical Distancing.

Kids Ministry: Children's Bible studies, interactive music videos, and fun activities will be posted Monday-Friday on the Redemption Hill Kids Facebook page. Also, parents will be sent a weekly email update.

Student Ministry: Each Wednesday at 6:30pm the Student Ministry will have a Zoom Gathering for encouragement, prayer and Bible study. Also, look for a student devotional to be posted every Monday morning in prep for the Wednesday night online meeting.

LIVE LIFE TOGETHER

Intentional Engagement

LIVE - Intentional Engagement: We engage in community to seek a better understanding of who God is. We believe the Good News of Jesus brings us from death to life and places us in the community of faith. This community transcends age, race, gender, and socio-economic status. By engaging in community, we get a fuller understanding of who God is, and how He affects our everyday lives. We were created to live in community so that we may experience the wonders of God's grace as we relate to one another.



Join a small group here: <https://www.redemptionhill.net/connect>



LIVE LIFE TOGETHER

Intentional Engagement

During the next eight weeks, we will continue to intentionally build community through:

Sunday Morning Worship: One of the main purposes of engaging in the Sunday worship gathering is the opportunity for us to encourage one another through corporate worship together (Heb 10:24). This is why it's important for us all to prioritize "gathering" online at the same time for the Facebook Live stream each Sunday. Even though we are not able to be in the same place, we are still able to interact with one another as we worship, pray and hear God's Word. We can also connect with each other through the live chat to encourage and support one another during this time.

Small Groups: Each small group will continue meeting weekly at their usual time using Zoom. These meetings are even more critical during this time to continue building community, for growing as disciples, personal encouragement, and keeping-up with one another's spiritual and physical well-being. As we move forward, Small Groups will be the primary way we will be able to communicate and care for one another each week. (Add web/ and encouragement to join a group)

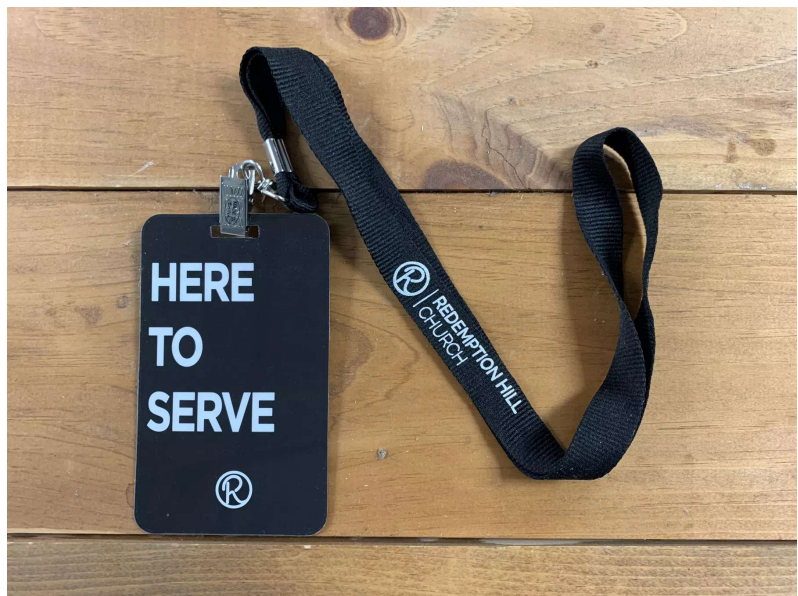
Personal Connection: We need to love one another during this time. That means it is critical for us to be texting, calling, and messaging one another to check-in and for prayer. As a staff, we will also be reaching out to each family member over the next few weeks to check-in, pray with, and understand any needs that may arise.



Serve: Intentional Generosity

SERVE - Intentional Generosity: We see giving our time, talent and money into the Kingdom of God as our privilege.

Jesus tells us that He came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. We, as followers of Jesus, should see it as a privilege to serve and give sacrificially so that the Gospel might be displayed in the life of the church, in our neighborhoods, and throughout our city. We see giving of our time, talents, and money towards the Kingdom of God as the greatest investment we can make on earth. As much as possible, we are collaborating and aligning our missional efforts with other churches and organizations in our city to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.





Serve: Intentional Generosity

During the next eight weeks, we will continue to be intentionally generous through:

Serving Other Churches: We desire that the whole Church of our city thrive. Therefore, we collaborate with other church families around us to meet each others' needs and the needs of our city. This includes sharing any resources we have with other churches to help them facilitate continuing their ministry online.

Serving Through Love Out Loud: We know that the deepest needs of our community are yet to come. Over the past 10 years, Love Out Loud has become a facilitating hub linking the Church of our city to the most pressing community needs. As RHC positions to meet the coming needs of our community, we are currently partnering with Love Out Loud and other organizations in our city that are already mobilized to meet community needs. To see current volunteer opportunities please visit: <https://volunteer.loveoutloudws.com/covid/>

Serving Our Church Family: We are setting aside resources to assist RHC family members both financially and in other areas of care as needed.

Serving Our Existing Community Partners: As a church we will continue to communicate and serve our existing community ministries wherever possible and following public health guidelines.



LIVE WORK PLAY

HOW WE ARE RESPONDING MISSIONALLY AS A CHURCH FAMILY:

Intentional Mission: We seek to engage every man, woman, and child with the Gospel. The above sections are ways that Redemption Hill Church, as a church organization, is responding for you and with you. However, as we begin to look at the missional aspect of our vision statement in the areas of LIVE, WORK, PLAY, more than ever we encourage you to engage with those around you. While being as supportive and available to you during this time as possible, we want to challenge you to be intentional about mission in these areas where God has called each us.

John 20:21 - *Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.*

Who we are determines what we do. As God transforms us, He gives us His heart for all people. We all have a circle of influence -- people who we've developed relationships with as we've gone about our daily routines in the places where we live, work and play. God sends us to them to impart the love, grace and peace of the Gospel. The challenge now is what does it look like for each of us to love our neighbor during this time of crisis? How can we encourage and bring hope by showing and sharing God's kindness to our family, neighbors, friends and co-workers while having to maintain physical distance? At this time, it would be easy to become isolated socially from others, but still Jesus sends us to our neighbor. So then, how do we live out our faith intentionally each day, to love our neighbor, where we live, work and play.



LIVE WORK PLAY

LIVE: Here are some practical ideas for how we can be on mission in our neighborhoods:

Renew Your Spiritual Rhythms: maintaining a vibrant devotional life in God's word refreshes you on a daily basis and keeps your heart engaged toward others.

Intercessory Prayer: Pray for three of your neighbors by name each day. Pray for them in the same way you would pray for yourself. Ask God to keep them physically and emotionally healthy, to meet all their needs, and that their hearts would be powerfully impacted by God's goodness and grace. One practical tool to keep you prayerfully engaged is Bless Every Home. (<https://blesseveryhome.com/>)

Be a Front Porch Neighbor: While being aware of necessary social distancing, check-in with those who are most vulnerable to the virus: senior adults and those with pre-existing health issues. Exchange contact information; keep up with neighbors on social media; offer to pick up items at the grocery store; share accurate, helpful information; be a conduit of encouragement. Stay connected!

Care Packages: Put together essential items like individually packaged food/snacks, tissues, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, laundry detergent, paper products, and encouraging devotional materials.

Deliver Meals: Prepare hot meals or meals that can be frozen for later use.

Invite Neighbors to Participate in Online Services/Devotions: During times of crisis, people become more open to the Gospel as reality sets in about how fragile our way of life really is. Invite your neighbors, friends and co-workers to jump into the online content as a source of emotional and spiritual encouragement.



LIVE WORK PLAY

WORK: Be on mission while working from home. During this time, work (along with everything else) looks a lot different for everyone. We face many challenges all around us -- some are worried about their jobs, most are working from home, and unemployment rates are shooting up.

However, God's design for work and His ability to provide for all of our needs is unchanging (Matthew 6). We encourage you to be intentional at work with both your employers and fellow employees. This may look different than usual, but is more critical than ever. Your co-workers are looking for answers and need prayer. They are concerned for their family's well-being, and are more open to talking about the deeper things of life than ever before. Not only that, but as we begin to feel more and more isolated in our homes this reality will become more and more evident.

For encouragement and resources in this area with practical ways you can reach out to your co-workers, please check-out our podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuP8q3f3QSY&t=805s>





LIVE WORK PLAY

(continued)

Prioritize People: Don't just fill your day with tasks, but be intentional about connecting with co-workers on a personal level. Everyone has something they are going through that you know nothing about. Ask people how they are doing and listen for needs and concerns.

Make a point to follow up with people who express needs with a text, phone call or Zoom meeting. Take time to pray for your co-workers, look for opportunities to have gospel oriented conversations, care for those around you who've been laid-off from jobs. Don't allow this time to feel like a break from mission work, but a time for great harvest!

If you have any questions in this area, need encouragement, or find yourself without work and need financial assistance, please reach out to us.

Serve Well: Be sure to bring your best effort everyday to do your work well. Be proactive and look for ways to team-up with others to stay connected. Look to serve your co-workers by offering to help them with their work when possible. Make it your mission to glorify God in your work and to help others be successful.

“Our daily work can be a calling only if it is reconceived as God’s assignment to serve others.”

- Timothy Keller



LIVE WORK PLAY

PLAY: We all have hobbies, businesses and places that we routinely frequent in the areas that we live. God has given us these as gifts, passions, and places not only for our joy, but for His glory. He calls us to use our fun and routines for His mission, which makes our hobbies and things we do for entertainment infinitely more enjoyable. But we are not to just use our city to meet our needs or for our enjoyment only, but to reveal the joy we have in Christ and to meet the needs of city by seeking its peace and prosperity in all we do. Therefore, during this time we are urging each other to:

Continue to Support: With the economy at a standstill, business owners are worried if their business will survive. This is especially true for local, small businesses. As much as it is financially possible, be intentional to continue making purchases from local businesses.

Post to Social Media: Post encouraging messages to the social media accounts of your favorite local businesses to let them know how much you've appreciated their services in the past and that you look forward to continuing to do business with them in the future.

Personally Connect: In these current circumstances, we are mandated to be in our neighborhoods, to work remotely, and we are essentially mandated to step away from those who we routinely engage with. Think of those that you are normally in contact with at your local cafe, the golf course, the local retail shop you frequent, people you've meet at the gym, etc., and reach out to them. If you don't have their phone numbers, seek them out on social media. This is a great opportunity to deepen those relationships even though at this time the daily routine has been interrupted and you are not able to see them.



SPECIAL TOPIC

Special Topic: Finances and Giving

We thank God that we are in the position to respond proactively to the current needs as outlined above because of your faithfulness and generosity. Over the next few months, we realize that while we seek to serve as many as we can with both finances and resources, as people hurt financially so does the Church.

We also recognize that while we hope that we do not have to adjust our budget for this year due to COVID-19, we are prepared to do so if needed.

We ask that you continue to faithfully give to the RHC family during this time so we can continue to fully engage in the mission God has set before us, and meet the growing needs of the church family and our city.

You can donate online here: <https://www.redemptionhill.net/donate>



SPECIAL Thank You

We love you, and we are praying for you. Please be in prayer for us during this time. We know that right now, we are in confusing times, but it is essential during this pandemic that we seek God, and we live out the identity we have in Him in the world around us.

That can be scary, and it may be increasingly scary in the weeks to come. Our challenge, however, is to know the truth. We are created for the glory of God. In Him, we live and move and breathe. In Him, we have all security, satisfaction, and joy. With this reality at the forefront of our hearts and minds during this time, we can face tomorrow with great hope, with great courage, and in firm boldness in the truth of Christ.

So steward your hearts in the direction of God and lead others to Him without fear. Direct your social energy from anxiety and panic to wise preparation and His perfect love.

Above all, understand that **with unprecedented times comes unprecedented opportunity**. Yes, we want continued health for those unaffected by the virus, and yes, we fervently desire healing for those who are. We pray for that; we work towards that; and we use our resources to that end. But, we also know that this is not our home and our health is not our identity or our hope.

In Christ, we can say ... *"to live is Christ and die is gain."* He alone is our hope. He alone gives us life. He alone is worth living for in any and every circumstance in which we may find ourselves. And as a church, while we pray and work towards physical healing and in no way do we wish this pandemic to continue one moment longer, we do rejoice in the opportunity to reveal the love of Christ in the midst of it.



SPECIAL Thank You

Ed Stetzer, a leading missiologist, said recently, “Church, this is our time.” Perhaps this will be the most significant opportunity in our lifetimes to reveal the hope of Christ to the world that is watching hope slip away, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment.

If we seek to live for the glory of God, we must ask what it looks like at this moment for us to live out our faith to see the Kingdom of God come as it is in Heaven in my neighborhood, my workplace, and my city. If we intentionally do this, we may see revival, and believe me; we don’t want to miss that opportunity. We want to be able to look back at this defining time as witnesses and participants of all that God is about to do. This is why we are alive.

Please contact us with any questions, prayer requests, or needs: info@redemptionhill.net



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