

Dear Hope Family,

It is recorded for us in John's Gospel (16:33) that Jesus told His disciples, "*In this world you will have tribulation, but take courage, for I have overcome the world.*" These past few days we have seen great trouble in the form of the murder of George Floyd on the streets of an American city and the continued marginalization of minorities and the downtrodden in our world, leading to protests, riots, looting, civil discord, even more death. It would be easy to become discouraged and feel as though there is no hope. Yet the words of Jesus ring true – and there is in fact hope for this world. Our prayer is that each of us will be an extension of Jesus' peace, love and hope during these crazy days. If peace is to be realized, it must begin with the people of hope!

Adding to our angst is the current "lockdown" and continued social-distancing in our society. We too want to reopen the facility of Hope Church but will wait until it is deemed safe by our local authorities (State and County Health Departments). One aspect of shepherding is the protection of the flock – and we take this charge most serious. We trust you see the wisdom in holding off on our opening at this time.

In preparation for our reopening a team under the lead of Diane Thompson has been assembled. Representatives from every Hope ministry and section of our church are involved and are working toward our safe and imminent reopening. If you have questions regarding the reopening of the church you can contact Diane at: dthompson2017@mail.com

In the meantime ministry goes on! Participation in our Children's, Youth and Adult Bible Studies will continue on zoom (see church website for details www.hopesearch.org). This is a great way to stay connected with others in the Hope family! Our Sunday morning live-stream has had some difficulties the past two weeks, but we are now assured our "glitch" is behind us! (Yay God!). Again, the church website will instruct you on how to view.

Speaking of ministry... we have a unique opportunity to bless the staff of El Camino Hospital – Los Gatos. Attached to this letter is a template for you to download with your own personal note (or children's art) to express your appreciation to the staff of the hospital and their service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please participate in this outreach, and return your paper(s) to the church by Sunday June 7. Place them through the mail slot in Ray Wolff's office (NE corner of building – off parking lot). This will be a great way to thank and encourage our neighbors down the street!

As always, you – the people of Hope Church – are in our thoughts and prayer. Your continued support, encouragement and demonstrations of love during this time are greatly appreciated! We believe we will come through these difficult days stronger than before – and ready to be used of Him in greater ways!

Blessings!

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