

Dear Congregation,

Your Official Board met this morning to formulate a plan going forward in relation to the coronavirus pandemic. As you know church services were cancelled today as a precaution. But what about next week and the weeks to come? What can you expect?

Finding accurate, up-to-date information, including when to seek help is of paramount importance. The situation with COVID-19 is fluid and rapidly evolving and will require an equivalent measured response. The Peoples Church leadership is relying on God's will in all of this, science experts, healthcare professionals and using the following resources to make their decisions.

- Province of Nova Scotia: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>
 - Alerts and notices, When to seek help, Protecting yourself, Travel advice, Government's response, Testing data
- Government of Canada: <https://canada.ca/coronavirus>
 - Coronavirus disease questions answered: About COVID-19, Symptoms and treatment, Prevention and risks, Travel advice, Canada's response
 - Communities: Transmission, Detection and reporting, Prevention and control, Guidance
 - Printable resources and downloads
- The Public Health Agency of Canada Coronavirus Information Line: 1-833-784-4397

As a result, the following things are happening.

1. Sunday morning and evening services are cancelled until further notice. Pastor Ken will continue with his series in the Gospel of Mark via recorded video posted on the website.
2. Further notices will be communicated weekly in a number of ways.
 - a. Church office answering machine 902-893-9312
 - b. Church website <http://www.peopleschurchtruro.com/>
 - c. Social media
 - i. K-Life www.facebook.com/groups/P.C.T.KidsMin/
 - ii. Reach www.facebook.com/groups/228839200462644/
 - iii. The Peoples Church www.facebook.com/ThePeoplesChurchTruro/
3. Weekly contact by phone from one of your elders or deacons.
4. Pastor Bruce and Deacon Rob Whiteside are working on acquiring the technology for live streaming. The Deacons Board is meeting on Tuesday, March 17 and will discuss meeting that need financially.
5. Ministries still moving forward are:
 - a. Vacation Bible School, July 6-10 (ages 4 to gr. 6)
6. These ministries are cancelled until further notice:
 - a. Praise Team
 - b. K-Life Ministry including Gospel Promise Station (ages 2 to gr. 6) and Funtastic Kids (gr. 1-6)
 - c. Reach Teen Ministry (gr. 7-12)
 - d. 14:6 College & Career (ages 18-25)

- e. Prime Timers (ages 25-40)
- f. Ladies & Babies
- g. Seniors Ministry & Hymn Sing
- h. Small Group Bible Studies
- i. Community Suppers

These are extraordinary times requiring extraordinary measures and cooperation. It has been proven that crowd avoidance and social distancing in the early stages of a pandemic can reduce the number of overall cases and health effects.

I trust that The Peoples Church family will be in prayer regarding this situation. Pray for those who are sick and their families, for those who are living in fear and anxiousness, for the medical professionals, for first responders, for those working on treatments and a vaccine and for our leaders to act with wisdom in their decisions that affect us all.

In the midst of uncertain times we are certain of our God. He is faithful and trustworthy. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

Steve VanderKwaak
Chair of the Official Board
The Peoples Church