

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Members & Friends  
Hamilton Central Baptist Church



Dear Friends,

By now you will be aware that gatherings of 100 or more are not allowed in New Zealand in an effort to slow the transmission of the COVID 19 virus. As a church, we obviously must comply with this edict from our government. But it in no way curtails our operation as a church. In fact, it gives us more reason to express our connection and community as Christ-followers in creative ways.

## **No Sunday (morning) Services at HCBC this Sunday and foreseeable future**

We've been anticipating this eventuality and seeking to set in place mitigation strategies. For instance, yesterday my sermon for this coming Sunday was video-recorded and will be available to watch/download off the HCBC website from 6:00am Sunday morning onwards. We are also setting in place some specific plans for pastoral care—especially of those elderly or feeling vulnerable, albeit mainly done by phone contact.

**Our Sunday evening “*Top Shelf*” congregation is meeting as normal, and likewise our Wednesday evening “*Upstairs Church*” congregation. *Te Whanau Putahi* will also continue to meet in Fairfield.**

From Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> we are seeking to identify a range of host homes where people can gather on a Sunday morning (we're suggesting 10:30am) to have some experience of community, watch the sermon on video, and to worship/pray together. **Please note: Nothing arranged for this Sunday.** These gatherings will be geographically allocated (rather than just random) and next week instructions will be sent to you on how to identify where a host near you is located, and to register your planned attendance. If you would be willing to be a host home (for between 4-12 — you set the limit), please get in touch with the Church Office.

### **Quick Updates:**

- **AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> April — postponed for at least a month . . .**
- **Alpha Course — starts this Tuesday, carrying on as normal . . .**
- **Garage Sale — postponed for at least a month . . .**

**Tune in this Sunday to our first HCBC “Virtual” Church – [www.hcbc.nz/virtual](http://www.hcbc.nz/virtual)**

**Dont forget to subscribe to our Youtube channel "Central Media" for notification of future updates, sermons and community news: [www.hcbc.nz/subscribe](http://www.hcbc.nz/subscribe)**

These are troubling days with lots of uncertainties. So, we look to the Lord as our strength and source of hope. Our pastoral team will continue to work to facilitate our pastoral support. Should you become aware of special needs amongst friends and family, do phone the Church Office to let us know. But of course, you may just be the best source of comfort and support, so consider yourself part of the pastoral answer on behalf of our church!

May we all experience God's special grace and peace as we navigate these uncharted waters. God is with us, no matter what, and nothing takes him by surprise!

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Winslade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Winslade  
Senior Pastor