

From the St. Paul's Deacons

Dear St. Paul's Family,

As your Deacons, we just wanted to reach out with a brief note regarding what we are doing to care for the church and the community during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

First, know that the deacons stand ready to personally help with material needs. We are the body of Christ and, if one member suffers, all suffer together (I Corinthians 12:26). If you have physical or financial needs or are self-isolating and need help with groceries or prescription pickup, please let us know. If you would like a deacon to phone you and pray with you, we are eager to do that. To contact the deacons, send an email [here](#), or send a text to 407-900-3328. If you want to reach a specific deacon, our contact information is below.

Second, we wanted you to know that Edie Langston has a team that is leading the effort to minister to the physical needs of the neighborhood kids that have been coming to tutoring. Several of the kids have had their meals disrupted by the shutdown of the schools. If you would like to participate in the meal effort or donate canned and nonperishable food items for the neighborhood kids, please reach out to Edie at 407-923-8548 or by [email](#), or you can also contact a deacon. Also, if anyone becomes aware of other needs in the neighborhood, please let us know.

Third, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, says "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Keeping this passage in mind, during this time that we are disconnected and isolated from one another, we encourage the congregation to be on the lookout for opportunities to be generous and connect with one another in other ways.

Specifically, think about those that you know who might appreciate hearing from you and take the step to reach out with a note, a call, or maybe even set up a video call on Zoom. Social isolation can be lonely, so if you think of it and feel called to do so, check in every so often with the members of our community who are more vulnerable to COVID-19. A call just to chat and pray together can be a real encouragement to those stuck at home.

Other ways we can sow bountifully during this time could include the following:

- Buy and deliver groceries or other supplies for people who can't go out to get them.
- Assist the church team that is providing nonperishable foods for our neighborhood kids.
- Phone at-risk members or isolated members to identify needs or just to check on them.

- Provide technical/computer support to members who have challenges in going online.
- Contact your neighbors and offer your—or the church's—support. Invite them to our online worship service.

You may have other ideas of how the Lord can use you at this time. If you want to serve, but you need help in connecting to an opportunity, contact the deacons.

Finally, we encourage you to rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12), and while wisely avoiding danger (Proverbs 14:16), do not forsake virtually-gathering together (Hebrews 10:25). Consider the opportunities that we have to generously share the love of God—with our brothers and sisters in Christ and with a lost and dying world. Remember that during this time of crisis, we are here for you, and we are here for each other.

In Christ,

the Deacons of St. Paul's

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