

Greetings Shalom Members and Friends, we hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and safe as we navigate together this very challenging time. Thank you for all that you are doing to share the love of Jesus in our communities, to generously support our ministry through Shalom and to serve in so many significant ways, big and small. While we are not gathering in person as the church, we have instead been deployed, as the church. Some of us are working on the frontlines, and others by staying at home. In all of these ways, even in our "physical distancing," we remain BETTER TOGETHER!

While we still cannot gather in person, our church remains open, vital, and moving forward, and we want to stay connected with you as much we possibly can. If you have any prayer concerns or celebrations we might not be aware of, please email (office@shalomlife.org) or call (734-878-6859) the church office so we can be with you in prayer and provide other support you might need at this time. In addition to our online Worship, Wednesday Zoom Dinner Church, and On-Line Youth & Family ministries, we are also continuing to offer pastoral care, counseling, preparation for Baptisms and weddings, and many other ministries either over the phone or online.

We have started intentional advance planning for how we will return to in-person gatherings at church in the future as the local, state, and federal agencies advise. It is becoming clear that this return will not happen immediately or entirely in one day but will be a process taking place in phases over weeks or maybe months. By beginning to plan now, we can manage it well and do all that we can reasonably do to reduce risks and concerns as much as possible. We are looking carefully at all of our practices to determine what adjustments need to be made, while still emphasizing our commitment to be a vibrant, loving, and accepting "come as you really are" community of faith. Some adjustments will likely be temporary, others perhaps more permanent, as we all move into some new ways of living in many parts of our lives due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

 We very much hope you will help in this process by thoughtfully considering the best way to move back to in-person worship by participating in our church wide on-line survey. The link to the survey can be found on our website at [www.shalomlife.org](http://www.shalomlife.org) and go to the Covid-19 Response Page. We hope this [survey](https://assessments.gloo.us/a/RGVwbG95bWVudENvbmZpZ3wxNjgyMDEwMTM4MjE3NTQ2OTY5) will help you understand some of the many things we are prayerfully considering, as well as give us some valuable insight into your current feelings and concerns. While we have been focusing lots of attention and time on addressing this radical change in all of our lives and how to make ministry happen in the midst of it, we are also continuing to work hard to ensure our pastoral transition and partnership with Calvary helps us live out our mission of Loving God, Loving others and serving the world continues in wonderful ways! Now more than ever the light and love of Jesus will be needed as we help people deal with the psychological, economic, relational, and spiritual impacts of this crisis in the months and years ahead. We already have so many important ministries in place, and these current events will guide us as we shape additional new and relevant ministries in the days ahead.

Let all that we say, think and do bring glory to God…

**Pastor Kenneth Greble**  **Pastor Kurt Hutchens**