

## Covid 19 Pandemic –

### WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH PENANG Pastoral Letter and Prayer Guide 1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings!

The Prime Minister's order last night to restrict movement as our nation's bid and effort to curb the spread of coronavirus and its infection requires cancellation of all social gatherings including religious gatherings from 18 -31 March 2020.

Prior to the order, our conference President, Rev. Dr T Jeyakumar had on the late afternoon of 16 March 2020, also issued a directive to cancel all our worship services till end of March 2020.

Pursuant to the Prime Minister's order, the Bishop of the Methodist Church, Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik also issued an episcopal letter instructing all churches to cancel worship services until end of March 2020.

As responsible citizens of our country and in keeping with the order, we at Penang Wesley Methodist Church,

1. Cancels worship services on Sunday on 22 and 29 March 2020.
2. Cancels all our usual activities and gatherings until 31 March 2020
3. Cancels all our care group meetings and fellowship gatherings until 31 March 2020
4. Cancels our visitation ministry until 31 March 2020 except for emergencies and crisis. In such an event, please call **Rev. Ting Moy Hong at 016 5280813** or **Pastor Luke at 010 3843443**.
5. Cancels all Boys Brigade and Girls Brigade activities and meetings till 30 June 2020 (pursuant to the directive issued by the Registrar of Societies on 16 March 2020)
6. Tadika Methodist is closed until 31 March 2020

While our worship services are cancelled as stated above, let me encourage you to worship the Lord as a family in your respective homes on Sundays. Please log in to one of the following links for live-streamed services.

1. DUMC for both **Chinese and English Worship Services** : [dumc.my/live](http://dumc.my/live)
2. Trinity Methodist Penang: <http://live.penangtrinity.org>
3. Canning Garden Methodist Church for both **English and Chinese services**: <http://www.cgmcipoh.org/livestreams>

Even though our worship services and meetings are cancelled, please remember that who we are as God's people, His church is unchanged and remains true. Our worship of Him continues regardless of change of our circumstances and places. Our prayers for one another continues and all the more so in times such as this. Our belonging to the Lord and one another in the Body of Christ is unchanged. Please know that we are keeping you in prayers and pastoral care will still be issued where we can.

Most importantly, the Lord, He watches over us. Let me encourage us to continue to pray and I like to suggest the following guide for your use.

1. Pray for yourself, loved ones and others. We must continue to trust in Him and place our trust in Him. Humble ourselves before Him and pray. Daily pray for ourselves, family, church, Malaysia and the world.  
Take this time to eat, play and pray together as a family. Take this opportunity to do family devotion, a short one, as short as 15 minutes will do.

2. Trust God and "lock our doors". We are not to test the Lord. See Matthew 4.5-7. Our faith in the Lord requires us to love one another including our enemy. The outworking of this in our context now is to take care of ourselves and others. Do our part and do it well to stop the spread of the disease. CONTAINING THE SPREAD works when all of us do our part. Be disciplined with our personal hygiene. Avoid crowds. Postpone your BD parties etc.
3. It is proven and reiterated by medical scientists that the elderly and those unwell are most vulnerable. The good and strong advice is to STAY HOME. Staying home is good **for all** in our bid to contain the spread.
4. If you are not in any of the Care Group (CG) or fellowship, please ask for yourself to be included in the CG. Refer to the list of CG inserted in our weekly bulletin. Call the leader/contact person in the group. THIS IS IMPORTANT ESPECIALLY FOR TIMES SUCH AS THIS TO STAY CONNECTED, BE PRAYED AND CARED FOR. You may not be able to meet physically but you will be connected via WA/ calls/ SMS. Call the pastors for help on this if you like.
5. TRAC President has issued a church wide **call to fast and pray on this Sunday, 22/March**. Make an effort to be part of the fast and pray.
6. Pray that by God's mercies and grace, we may regather for our Holy Week Services (Maundy Thursday Service on 9 April, 8pm and Good Friday Service, 8pm on 10 April and Easter Worship Services on the 12 April 2020.

The Pastors and leaders will keep you posted on the church response and our community life together as we live with, face and deal with the pandemic.

Please stay well and stay connected.

**Psalm 46.1.** God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.

Together with you in the Lord,  
Rev. Ting Moy Hong for and behalf of  
Pastors & Leaders of Wesley Methodist Church, Penang.

17 March 2020