

20 March 2020

Dear Church,

On 18 March 2020 the Australian government announced a ban on gatherings of over 100 people. This ban and the social distancing advice means that churches will need to make changes in the way we operate our Sunday services. This ban was introduced to help slow down and stop the spread of COVID-19.

It was decided last night that both Belmont and Bannockburn congregations will continue to meet on Sundays, with our services limited to 100 people (children included) until further notice.

In line with Health Dept guidelines, we have some protocols that we would ask you to observe:

1. It is recommended that anyone who is ill, feeling vulnerable, or over the age of 80 not attend church services during this time.
2. If you or members of your family show flu-like symptoms of heightened temperature, respiratory difficulties, runny nose, coughing or unusual aches and fatigue, then please do not attend Sunday Services at either church site.
3. Please see a doctor to determine the cause of your illness.
4. If you are in a service and you or your children begin to cough or sneeze, please move outside or into the designated room where people are not in close proximity.
5. Due to the attendance limitation of the service, if anyone arrives and is sick, the church leadership may need to ask you to return to your home. Before you go, we will take the opportunity to pray for you in the designated room and provide any assistance for your need.

When attending church these are the changes you can expect:

1. Sunday services will be kept to one hour starting at 10am.
2. GoTots program will be suspended and the GoKids program will finish their planned lessons up to the school holidays.
3. There will be no communion services, or fellowship time after the services.
4. The auditorium will have seating available up to the capacity of the room with the required spacing of a 1.5m separation.
5. We encourage everyone to bring their own hand sanitiser and use it appropriately. We have a limited amount of hand sanitiser available and encourage everyone to be thorough in washing hands with soap upon arrival.
6. Refrain from shaking hands, kissing or hugging to minimise body contact. The social distancing advice recommends a distance of 1.5m between each person.

None of us has experienced anything like this before. We ask everyone to be patient as we navigate through these changes and determine the best ways to keep meeting together and providing the care you may need.

We belong to an all-powerful God who knows everything about us and the circumstances in which we are currently living. This is an opportunity for our church to show strength when things around us seem uncertain.

What a great opportunity we have to still be able to meet together, and we should all be praying that when we do come together that we all experience an amazing encounter with God. For those who can't join us on Sunday, you are on our hearts and we will be praying for you.

Over the next few weeks we will be communicating regularly with you through phone calls, emails, social media and the website. Anyone who has a pastoral care matter please talk to your Connect group leader or any one of our pastors/elders in Belmont and Bannockburn.

Praying for you and God bless,

Pastor Dave Manning: Waurm Ponds Community Church
Pastor Steve Abram: Momentum Christian Centre Bannockburn

Waurm Ponds Community Church Inc Eldership:

Simon Edwards
John Challis
Scott Fuller