

RANDBURG METHODIST CHURCH

Resident Minister
Rev. Mantima Thekiso

P O BOX 4028
RANDBURG
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Temporary
office number:
072 924 7346

RANDMETH BANKING DETAILS:

RANDBURG
METHODIST
CHURCH

STANDARD
BANK,
CHEQUE ACC

ACC NO:
021649995

BRANCH
CODE:
018005

26 March 2020

Randburg Methodist Church Community

RE: Internal Communique in light of the current developments on the spread of the Coronavirus

Preamble:

Due to the latest developments with regards to the escalating spread of COVID-19 the president, on Monday, announced a National Lockdown. As a result, new regulations have been introduced into law by the office of the president. These drastic measures talk to the seriousness of the impact the spread of the virus is having, both on the lives of our people, business and the economy at large.

As the Methodist Church of Southern Africa church, under the leadership and guidance of the Presiding Bishop, we also realise the seriousness of the matter and the urgent need to mitigate against for the rapid spread of the virus.

To that effect, as the RandMeth community, we too are required to heed the call of a total lockdown, and suspend all church activities which require face to face interaction, until further notice.

This means the immediate suspension of all worship services that require us to congregate on Sundays, the immediate suspension of all Mission Group and Organisation meetings and gatherings. It also means the immediate suspension of all in-person class / bible study meetings, until further notice. As the Church Executive, we would like to communicate the following adjustments.

Maintaining Community through electronic media

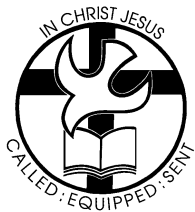
Even though we cannot congregate as the RandMeth community, we will need to commit to continue to sustain our pastoral responsibility to each other and the community at large. To this effect, we will, on a weekly basis, continue to make use of our various electronic mediums such as the RandMeth website (www.randmeth.co.za), YouTube Channel, Facebook, email, WhatsApp to:

- Share the Lent Reflections every Wednesday throughout the period of Lent.
- Share voice and/or video recorded sermons every Sunday, in at least 2 different languages – English and a Vernacular language
- Video recording on our RandMeth YouTube (Randburg Methodist church) channel
- Distribute our pew leaflets
- Distribute frequent updates from the MCO
- Distribute, as far as possible, COVID-19 updates and developments
- Any other updates affecting the life of our church community.

We hereby encourage all to please make use of these channels and regularly check for updates.

2020 THEME: WALKING HUMBLY WITH GOD

Email: admin@randmeth.co.za Website: www.randmeth.co.za
Facebook: [Randburg Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/RandburgMethodistChurch) - Youtube: [Randburg Methodist Church](https://www.youtube.com/RandburgMethodistChurch)



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Virtual Mission Group and Class / Bible Study meetings

We invite our mission groups, class / bible study groups to explore the option of having meetings via virtual platforms such as Zoom.

Zoom is an on-line meeting facility for people to have virtual meetings for up to 40 minutes at a time and requires all who participate to have access to the internet. We recognise that this may limit use thereof to only those with access to internet, however, it is still a viable option for those with smart devices (phone; iPad; computer).

Classes / bible study groups can engage our Communications Mission group members for further assistance in this regard.

Alternatively, you can make use of platforms such as WhatsApp, email, SMS and any other means you may find helpful to keep connected. I really encourage us take time to build our church community further during this time.

Ferngrove Care Centre

The Ferngrove Care Centre will be closed but counselling will continue to happen through telephonic means.

For help in this regard, kindly contact the church office. The church office will arrange for a counsellor from the Ferngrove Care Centre to contact you.

RandMeth Cares

We will continue to care for the vulnerable and disadvantaged amongst us and in our community through our *RandMeth Cares* initiative, led by our Social Concerns mission group.

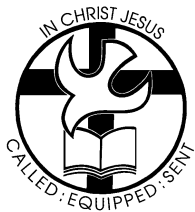
RandMeth Cares is our initiative to ensure that during the national lockdown, no member of our congregation or family amongst us goes hungry. To this effect we invite all families at risk, due to economic challenges, of insufficient supplies of food, personal toiletries and cleaning supplies to please register with our RandMeth office. Alternatively, you can register via our Society Stewards or our Social Concerns mission group members. This is so that we can assist with supplies from our Martha's Pantry. No family needs to go hungry during this time.

Even more importantly, we continue to appeal to all amongst us who have the means to contribute to Martha's Pantry to please continue to do so. Supplies are currently running low.

We will also assist our elderly and vulnerable who may need someone to assist with picking up their usual groceries during this time.

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Sustaining Planning Giving and Sunday Collection

We wish to appeal to the congregation at large, that even during this difficult time we sustain our commitment to giving to church for the furtherance of God's work.

Even though we have suspended meeting in person, praising and worshipping continues at home in different ways and giving remains an important part of worship so that we continue to sustain the work of God. Therefore, we are encouraged to continue our monthly Planned Giving and our weekly Sunday Offering as much as we can. We can do so from the comfort of our homes, via electronic options available to us, such as Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), SnapScan (barcode available on our pew leaflet) and cash deposits.

Our RandMeth banking details are available on the left panel for your convenience.

If you can not make deposits during this time, we wish to encourage you to put aside that which is in your heart to give to God, and once we are able to meet together again, you can present your offerings at church.

Call for sustained prayer and Unity

We wish to call on you to engage in a moment of prayer each day at 12h00 noon for our country and the world during this difficult time. We ask that you pray wherever you will be at that particular time and encourage those who will be with you to also join in.

Church Office Operations during Shutdown

The church office will continue to operate off-site during the shutdown period from 08h00am to 13h00 Monday to Friday. During this time, you can reach Ann on this number **072 924 7346**.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these new measures but we wish to encourage all of us to adhere to the regulations in place during the 21 day lockdown. It is important that as a church we lead in the fight to contain the spread of the virus. We are our brothers and sisters' keeper and therefore need to protect in every way not only ourselves individually but all members of our community. Therefore, we ask for greater care and patience towards one another.

Warmest regards,

Rev. Mantima Thekiso
Resident Minister

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