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We welcome your feedback.
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Johnson University Responds to the Coronavirus

As this newsletter goes to publication, at least two more weeks of social distancing is prescribed. Information and news have changed by the day, and Johnson University is making decisions based on the expertise of health professionals, the guidelines of our government, the best interest of our campus, and concern for our community.

The most recent decision of our Senior Leadership Team is to finish the spring semester with remote instruction (online classes). Most students have moved out of the dorms. Most faculty and staff are working from home. Some summer events have been canceled, and more may be canceled or rescheduled.

In the unfortunate case that this crisis escalates in our area, we are communicating with local leaders to offer the use of campus facilities for emergency services. If our resources might aid the community, we want to be good neighbors. You can read more about our response to COVID-19 and the latest news at JohnsonU.edu/Coronavirus.

Update on Campus Trails

Last fall we mentioned our desire to develop the natural resources of our campus and to share those resources with the community. The primary project involves increasing our trail system behind the new Athletic & Recreation Complex. Riverfront development has been tabled for now. Recent events have highlighted the importance of options for outdoor activities, and we hope someday to welcome your family and friends to this new trail experience that will be unique in South Knoxville. We will continue to share updates as this project progresses!

A Prayer for Our Neighborhood

Prayer is a source of comfort and guidance in this time of uncertainty. We offer this prayer for our community and invite you to make it your own:

Lord, we pray for our families. May our children be as precious as they are present. May our grandparents have unique opportunities to build family bonds. May our marriages be permeated with patience and understanding. May new experiences cause deeper love to grow between brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles. May we all see time and closeness as a gift.

Lord, we pray for our neighbors. May ours be a community of compassion. May we learn from one another. May our differences be both respected and appreciated. May you give us thoughtfulness and innovation so we can best serve and care for each other in these unique circumstances. May we affirm your value in us by the way we affirm each other.

Lord, we pray for our schools. May teachers find creative ways to guide students during this disruption. May our district make impactful decisions while they value safety and display wisdom. May our students find new ways of learning, new books to love, and new art to enjoy. May parents always be strong educational partners.

Lord, we pray for our churches. May they continue to be a light for the world, even as they pause from weekly gatherings. May you guide the hearts and minds of pastors who seek creative ways to accomplish ministry in this context. May they bring a sense of comfort and peace in this time of vulnerability. May this be a time of spiritual growth for all.

Lord, we pray for our healthcare workers, emergency service providers, and police. May their courage be rewarded with your mercy. May they be granted the resources needed to meet great needs. May they be your instruments of peace and healing. May the rest of the community cooperate so their work is effective. May you grant them protection as they serve our community.



Lord, we pray for our politicians and leaders. May they make decisions in the best interest of the local, state, and national levels. May they weightily consider the weakest members of our community and serve them faithfully. May they cooperate with each other. May they show this community and country to be full of grace, dignity, and resiliency.

Lord, we pray for our University. May our students' connection to this community transcend the distance from which they are completing the semester. May graduating seniors be comforted as their final months take this unfortunate turn. May our professors effectively teach through online mediums. May we be open to serving the needs of our community.

Lord, we pray for those who are in need. May we seek ways to become an answer to their prayers. May this time be an opportunity for our community to flourish in love and good deeds. May those with abundance be good stewards of your blessings. May this community one day look back on this as a time we grew stronger through testing.

Father, hear our prayers by your Spirit and in the name of Jesus. Amen.

May this time be an opportunity for our community to flourish in love and good deeds.