



Shalom Mishpochah,

It is my sincere prayer that you are well and trusting in the providential power and provision of the Prince of Peace.

The safety and security of all who worship with us has long been a priority of both I and our congregational board of directors. To be proactive against the threat of domestic terrorism we have invested many thousands of dollars for security, conducted seminars and training sessions to go along with hiring the professional assistance of George and Jody.

That said, and as a follow up to last week's communication; I wish to again convey to one and all my greatest concern over the health and well-being of everyone. Life is precious and the time has come when it is most prudent to cancel services to lessen the risk of spreading the highly contagious corona virus. In keeping with long-standing Jewish moral and ethical teachings, the preservation of life is the highest ethic.

Like all of you, I am closely monitoring this situation as best I can; wanting to apply faith and reason to the information coming from medical professionals and governmental agencies.

- **Beginning immediately, we are cancelling services for the next two weeks, March 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. These cancellations will include all congregational functions **except for Tuesday evening intercessory prayer @ 6 pm.****
- **Our annual Passover Seder at the Classics V is also cancelled.**

These service cancellations mark the first time we have ever cancelled a service. In times of inclement weather, my personal rule of thumb has always been - unless there is a driving ban, we're having a service.

In this rare instance we need to abide with and be in compliance with the safety guidelines of health professionals as well as that of our local and state governing authorities.

It's difficult to determine how long these conditions will persist, but in the meantime, we are seeking to implement live streaming of future services. Should this situation be protracted, our services will be delivered in the comforts of your living room.

In lieu of a Shabbat service, the synagogue sanctuary will be open for those who desire to come in to pray, from 10:30-12:00. During this time of absence, let us be mindful to the responsibilities of stewardship. Tithes and offerings can be sent through the mail or online by going to our website at: [shalombuffalo.org](http://shalombuffalo.org). Remember that we are receiving an offering for Zachary Rutter...may we be a rich blessing to him as he readies himself for a ministry trip with the YMJA to Eretz Yisrael.

## **PROPHETIC PRAYER POINTS:**

At the close of 2019 and for the first 5 weeks of 2020 I did a sermon series on “Prophetic 20/20 Vision” where I highlighted certain heroes of the faith to overcome overwhelming odds to change a culture in desperate need of reform.

Why would we need “Prophetic 20/20 Vision?” If things seemingly remained the same who would recognize the need? Why does God birth vision, why does He instill His words into the human heart?

As we closed out the year 2019 and ushered in 2020, did anyone expect or anticipate what we are now seeing, witnessing and experiencing? Could anyone have imagined that an entire nation(s) have gone into shutdown? Could anyone have forecast the world’s most powerful economic engine in being brought to its knees? That all sporting events have been cancelled along with widespread business closures?

20/20 Vision, in my estimation is a time to prepare and believe God in all things! We follow a “great cloud of witnesses” who remind us “yes we can!” Just as quickly as these calamities came upon us, just as quickly can they depart.

We are a few weeks removed from Passover, the ultimate paradigm for all redemption! On Passover we remember the power of God to turn away a deadly plague. On Passover we remember the Lamb of God whose blood staved off a deadly pestilence.

Let’s believe for an end to this plague by Passover! May our prayers to the Lamb of God be for the elimination of the plague on our land. Repentance and prayer work better than any serum discovered in a lab.

Let’s believe that the miracles of Passover will set us up for a grand and glorious Shavuot! May the blood of the Lamb break this deadly pestilence and may Shavuot yield us the fruits of 20/20 prophetic vision! Let the turmoil of Israel and the nations come to an end at Passover!

Although we may be apart, let our faith, hope, and love, along with unity continue to grow.

*I thank my God at every memory of you, always praying with joy in every prayer of mine for you all. (Phil.1:3-4)*

Lihitraot,

Rabbi Frank