

July 7, 2020

Dear FPC Family,

As most of you are aware, this past Sunday we moved back to online worship only because of “staff exposure.”

A little more explanation: One of our IT people (we outsource this person’s work) tested positive for Covid-19. While he is not an official “member” of our staff, he is at our facility frequently and works with many of our administrative staff regularly (and all of us periodically). He was asymptomatic and took a test because another client tested positive. While only a few of our staff had direct contact with him last week, the persons with whom he interacted were in contact with many other staff members and some covenant partners. The “domino effect” was and is part of the concern. Currently, those who had direct contact are being tested, others will self-quarantine until we know more.

With the number of cases increasing in Midland, the staff exposure, and the exposure to the virus that numerous covenant partners have reported to us, **we have decided to suspend in-person worship, including Come to the Quiet, for the time being.** In consultation with session and staff, we feel this is the most responsible action to take at this time. For now, we will return to having a livestream online worship service each Sunday at 11:00 am.

It is my hope that all of us might view this as a way to express our concern for the well-being of, and care for our church and the community as a whole. In other words: to be the best neighbors. As important as communal worship is, our chief goal is not to gather people in the building. Rather, it is to connect people to the hope of Christ and to each other – “to love and lead all people to deeper life in Jesus Christ.”

Please join us in praying for those who have this virus, for those who are working to help and to heal, for our community and for our congregation as we seek God’s guidance and creativity for ministry in time.

Grace and peace!

Pastor Steve
Galatians 5:13-14