

March 17, 2020

Dear FPC Family:

These are interesting times, to say the least! And we're grateful for your patience and understanding as we learn how to be the church in uncharted territory.

From now through Monday, March 30, all of our staff will begin working from home.

Please continue to call the church (432.684.7821) with any prayer needs, concerns, or questions. We will not have someone answering the phone, but just leave a message and the message will promptly be forwarded to the relevant person. You are also welcome to email any [staff person](#) directly. We are continuing to work during this time, so don't hesitate to reach out.

From now through Monday, March 30, all ministry meetings, outside groups, and gatherings will be canceled or moved online. Please assume if you have something that was scheduled at the church during this time, alternative arrangements need to be made. Contact any group leader for details about plans. Worship services on both March 22 and 29 will occur online.

During these uncertain times, please remember we still depend on your tithes and contributions to operate. Especially as our community faces an economic downturn at the same time as this virus, we are aware there will be many needs we may have the opportunity to meet in the weeks ahead and we need your faithful support to be able to respond. You can [give online](#), or you can continue to mail checks to the church office: 800 W. Texas, Midland, TX 79701. If you have questions about business matters related to the church, please email [Leanne Lyssy](#).

As we all know, the situation in our country seems to be changing by the day -- if not the moment. **These are our current plans for now, but some of these plans may be extended depending on current developments.** You will always find the most current information on our website's [Covid-19 update page](#). Also, we'll do a lot of communicating via [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). We know social media isn't for everyone (and too much isn't good for any of us in times like these) -- but it is a helpful connection, so be sure to find us there too!

While our face-to-face interactions may be momentarily suspended, we will still be the church. Nothing can stop that. Here's how that looks in specific ministry areas:

Worship + Prayer

For the next two Sundays (March 22 and 29) our worship will be [online at 11:00 Sunday morning](#). You can also listen to the radio broadcast at KMCM-97Gold (96.9 FM). Future dates will be determined based on current events. We'll share worship resources for both adults and children on that page before Sunday as well. During this time, homebound communion will be suspended out of our desire

to protect our elderly.

Other currently cancelled events include: March 18 and 25 Come to the Quiet, the March 22 Sunday Evening Prayer Service, Children's Choirs, Sanctuary Choir and Agape Ringers. The Children's Choir Musical will be postponed; date to be determined!

Congregational Care

Our pastoral staff is still available and committed to pastoral care in these times. Please email [Pastor Charles](#) or our congregational care coordinator [Becky Holmes](#). You can also call the church (432.684.7821) with any needs for care you may encounter and our pastors will reach out as soon as possible. We will be especially diligent in reaching out to those who may feel particularly isolated- our homebound covenant partners, the hospitalized, those in recovery, and the grieving. Please know that in the midst of anxiety, fears, hurts, and stress, our church is here for you. You are not alone.

If you or someone you know is hospitalized, please let [Pastor Charles](#) know. We will reach out by phone whenever possible but can currently still visit the hospital in emergencies.

We hope our Road to Recovery program can resume on April 1.

Outreach

Currently, our primary focus is partnering with West Texas Food Bank and MISD to help provide meals for food-insecure students at De Zavala Elementary and Midland High School. We may also be serving as a WTFB conduit for other community groups and churches in their efforts to provide the same support to other campuses. If you want to be involved in this, please contact [Alison Gaynor](#).

There are also opportunities to volunteer directly with the WTFB and Meals on Wheels to help support our most at-risk populations. Please see the [March 16 update](#) for more details about those needs.

Finally, we are striving to maintain our benevolence ministry during this season when our community's local economy has also been hit. You can direct people you know who may need financial assistance to call 432.684.8440 on Tuesdays and Fridays between 8:30 and 9:00 am.

Should you as a Covenant Partner need assistance with meals, transportation, or meeting financial obligations, we ask that you reach out to [Pastor Walter](#) or [Pastor Charles](#).

Middle School + High School Ministries

We will be moving online to Instagram, Facebook, Vimeo with a weekly video featuring Grace and Nicole, and a semi-weekly bulletin via e-mail for parents focused on 'Table Talk' -- curriculum that we will be going through together paired with conversation starters, questions, and 'tips of the day' that will suggest healthy ways to spend time during social distancing. All of this is aimed at keeping us in the

loop with each other and creating spaces to remain in contact via social media. You can always reach out directly to [Grace](#) with any high school student related needs or concerns or [Nicole](#) for middle school needs and concerns.

Social Media Links:

Instagram: [Middle School](#) | [High School](#)

Facebook: [Middle and High School](#)

Children's Ministry + CDC

Our CDC school is closed for two weeks from March 17 through March 26. Currently, we hope to resume March 31, though future plans depend on how current events develop. Registration completion for 2020-2021 will be rescheduled to March 31 through April 2. CDC Spring Bake Sale is postponed until further notice. Please contact [Kathy Hobart](#) if you have any questions about the CDC. (But questions about the virus should be directed to the [other CDC](#). Couldn't resist a bad joke.)

IMPACT! Parents, please look on our [livestream page](#) or in your email for ways to lead your children in worship using the same Bible lessons, worship songs, and videos that we do every Sunday. We've already heard some sweet stories from home worship last Sunday. Please continue to share pictures and stories with [Debbie](#) so we can share them with our broader church family. Seeing our little ones is a great way to encourage our older members! Please also let Debbie know if you have any questions or need any other support during this time. We know it's an anxious time for everyone, even our littlest.

Bible Sunday for 2nd and 3rd graders will be rescheduled to a later date. Children's Choir for the next two weeks has been canceled and the musical production scheduled for March 29 is being postponed.

Legacy Adult Ministry

In an effort to be cautious in our ministry to seniors, our Legacy Lunches are postponed until further notice. Our congregational care team will be reaching out to our Legacy Adults, but should you or someone you know need extra care, please refer to the Congregational Care section for instructions.

Adult Discipleship

Both Faithbuilders and Compass Class on Sunday Mornings will not meet as long as we are doing our online worship services.

Other currently canceled events include: March 18 First Ladies Luncheon (to be rescheduled at a later date), the March 25 Sacred Rhythms Bible Study, the March 18 and 25 Wednesday evening Gathering and all related events and classes. Hopefully everything can resume the week of March 30, including our Tuesday morning Men's Bible Study and our Wednesday evening Exploring Christianity Class. But like everything else, that remains to be determined.

Fine Arts School

FAS is closed for two weeks from March 16 through March 27. Currently, we hope to resume March 30, though future plans depend on how current events develop.

Phew! That's a lot of information!! So glad you made it this far!

We know how much changing and shifting this is for our church community. Yet, we remain expectant of how God will move in the midst of the world's chaos; we encourage you to dive deeply into new channels of communion with your families, friends, and beyond.

*“The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.”*
Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)