



March 11, 2020

Dear church,

No doubt, you have heard news of responses to the Corona virus outbreak in our state. Your lay leaders and I have met to create policies and contingency plans for how we will respond should an outbreak worsen in our communities. This letter is to inform you of our plans and help you be informed about our response.

We are and will continue to follow the advice of our local [Clark County Public Health department](#). As of Wednesday morning, there is one confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in our county. The Health Department is not recommending restrictions on public events at this time. Obviously, this is a fluid and quickly changing situation, and we are monitoring the Health Department website many times a day to make sure we have current information.

As there is no recommendation to restrict public events, we will continue with our church calendar as normal. If and when the recommendation is to restrict events of certain sizes, we will follow that recommendation as well.

Should we need to cancel on site worship, your worship leaders and I are prepared to offer a pre-recorded online worship experience. You will be able to find this worship video on our [YouTube page](#) and Facebook, the same places you can find our sermons every Tuesday. This worship video will be available on Sundays at 10 am so that we can worship together in spirit at our regular worship time.

We are also establishing a phone tree so that everyone who worships regularly with us has someone to check in with them. These phone tree volunteers will be able to gather prayer concerns, see if there are, needs specific to a potential quarantine, and help us remember that we are still connected. Your phone tree volunteer should be contacting you in the next week.

Should we move to worshipping online for a period of time, we would communicate ways you can continue to support the church through our weekly offerings.

We are not the only people who meet in our building. It is a public place, welcoming groups like AA, girl scouts, knitters and quilters, and of course, our preschool. We have been in contact with all these groups to let them know our building and we will be complying with Health Department recommendations and to ask them to create their own contingency plans.

Another item for you to consider if our school district should have to close, many children who rely on school for two meals a day will be negatively affected. We are talking about how we can respond faithfully to that need in our community. If a potential restriction on activity is unlikely to affect you economically, please keep in mind how you might be able to help those who will be affected. If you are worried about your finances, please know your church is here to help.

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We will communicate any potential changes to our church calendar by email and [Facebook](#), so please make sure you are connected with us through both of these media. Also, please forward and repost any announcements from us. That is an enormous help in making sure everyone in our church community gets the message, and it helps the larger public know that our church cares well for people.

As in any kind of event that affects us all, I am sure we will all greet this news differently. Some may feel we are overreacting; some may feel we are under-reacting. These are difficult decisions to make, but we can have confidence that the lay leaders have made these decisions together, and that we are not following the advice of suspect news reports, but of the most informed people in our community. We feel this is how the body of Christ ought to respond: with love and concern for all, especially those most vulnerable, but with faith and without fear. We hope you understand and have faith in our decisions.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Pastor Meredith