



March 11, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

While there is still much we don't know about the coronavirus, what we do know is that it appears to be very contagious and a significantly higher mortality rate than those associated with the flu.

It appears likely that at some point we will experience an outbreak in our community and that the Fox Chapel School District will temporarily close our schools as a result. Should that happen, we believe we should support the effort to isolate the outbreak by closing the church. We believe this is the most responsible course both for the health and well-being of our church family, and for the sake of the community, as well. It would be inconsistent with our call to create a pocket of vulnerability at the very time the larger community is trying to isolate and contain the spread of the virus.

As a result, **should the Fox Chapel School District close** we will:

- Shift our worship to an on-line format; the facility will be closed (more information on how to access the on-line service will be forthcoming)
- Close our offices and encourage staff to perform as much work as possible from their homes
- Reduce pastoral visitation to crisis-only; the pastors can be contacted by cell phone
  - Chris: 412.352-5775
  - Ellen: 412.737.2977
  - Tara: 412.503.3907
- Temporarily suspend all programs of the church with the exception of AA and Al-Anon which will continue to have access to our facility
- Temporarily suspend all board and committee meetings; however, where a meeting is deemed essential telecommunication is encouraged

In the meantime, may we be faithful and vigilant in our prayer for those nations, communities, families and individuals most affected by this outbreak, and for the medical personnel and government officials seeking to respond. And above all, remember and rejoice that “nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Brief Statement of Faith; Rom. 8:38–39).

Sincerely,

The Session and Pastors