



Dear Prairie View family,

Please read the following message from the PVCC Elders and Staff:

THE SITUATION

By now, you've seen the countless ways the COVID-19 (AKA, the Coronavirus) crisis is upending numerous areas of life in our society. This includes schools, sports, government, economics, and most obviously, healthcare. Churches are also being affected.

COVID-19 is a highly infective virus. While the overall health risk of COVID-19 is low for most people, it can be very dangerous for some smaller demographics (namely those who are older, or have preexisting medical conditions).

On Thursday, March 12, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb announced that, in an effort to reduce and slow the spread of COVID-19, non-essential gatherings must be limited to less than 250 people. In addition, Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness (on a conference call with local church leaders, which Senior Minister Ben Halliburton participated in) requested that Fishers churches cancel as many public gatherings as possible. On Friday, President Trump enacted a national state of emergency. Finally, our own Carl Pafford (an experienced doctor and trusted PVCC Elder) advised that we cancel our Sunday morning service for March 15.

THE DECISION

In light of this situation, the PVCC Elders have decided to cancel our worship service on Sunday, March 15. We have also decided to cancel all other church events between Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 21. This includes a Men's Breakfast, all Small Groups, a Missions Team meeting, Youth Group, and a Women's Study.

We did not arrive at this decision easily. We understand the various arguments for and against such a drastic step (from theological, pastoral, and logistical angles), and understand that you may not agree with this decision. However, we are in uncharted territory, and we've made this decision in an effort to protect the flock God has

entrusted us with, and to love our neighbors by doing our part to reduce and slow the spread of COVID-19.

THE PLAN

This week, Ben will preach the sermon he prepared for Sunday, March 15, and we will make that sermon available for you digitally to listen to on your own time. Marc will also recommend worship songs for the congregation to listen to. Finally, Ben and Zach will write and share devotionals throughout the week to help fill the void of missed times of communal study and prayer. Zach will also share resources with parents of children in Kids Kingdom.

We recognize (and emphasize) that this plan is not the equivalent of physically worshipping together on Sunday morning. Thus, to be frank, we don't want you to get too comfortable with it. This is a temporary plan, enacted for extraordinary circumstances, in an effort to continue offering spiritual care for our church (even if this form is less than ideal).

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

“How long will this last?”

- **We don't know yet.** For now, we're taking things one week at a time. Each week we will reevaluate our situation, make the appropriate decision, and share it with you in a timely manner.

“What about Communion?”

- Of the many experiences of Sunday morning worship, the corporate taking of Communion may be the one most difficult to adapt to our current predicament. However, we'll say this:
 - We do not believe the bread, juice, cups, or plates at PVCC are uniquely “blessed”. What makes Communion significant is the intentional gathering together of God's people to remember Christ's broken body and shed blood on the cross for our sins by eating and drinking.
 - **Therefore, we would encourage you to find a way to take Communion at home.** Whether you're by yourself, or with parents, a spouse, or children who also believe in Jesus – take a moment to remember Christ's broken body and shed blood, and eat and drink. If you have unleavened bread and grape juice, great! If you need to make do with something else, that's OK too.

“What about Offering?”

- **We currently do not have an online option for giving to PVCC. Therefore, we would encourage you to mail your offering to the church, or save it for the next Sunday we’re physically together (whenever that may be).**
 - We also recognize that the economic impact of COVID-19 has not yet been fully felt. **If COVID-19 results in a significant financial setback for you or your family (for example, due to lost hours at work, extra childcare expenses, or unexpected healthcare expenses), we encourage you to adjust your giving appropriately to take care of basic needs for yourself or your family.**
 - Giving to your local church remains a Biblical command from God. We’re all finding ways to obey this command in this situation.

“What about Pastoral Care?”

- **The fact that we are not meeting in person for some time does not change the fact that we are still a church family.** Talk to each other through email, texts, phone calls, or social media.
 - **If you need help – whether it’s picking up groceries or prescriptions, financial assistance, or a private visit from a Pastor or Elder for prayer – let us know. While we might be seeing less of each other face to face, we are not abandoning each other.**
 - And, of course – **PRAY** – for each other, our church, our community, our state, our nation, and our world.

FINAL THOUGHTS

In recent days, I have seen **Matthew 6:34** cited frequently (and rightfully so):

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

There are many anxious people in our world right now; you may be one of them. But I would challenge you to trust God through this trial. **Jesus’s words do not assure us that anxiety-inducing troubles will never come; rather, his words encourage and remind us to trust our good and sovereign God through our troubles.**

In **Matthew 10**, Jesus warns his disciples about the possibility of violent persecution (that could even result in death). But Jesus also reminds the disciples that the Father

knows how many hairs are on their heads. In other words, God sees them, knows them, and loves them – and thus, in the big scheme of things, they have no reason to fear. The same is true of us.

Sincerely,

Your shepherds, servants, leaders, siblings in Christ, and friends,

Ben Halliburton (Senior Minister)
Zach Ellsworth (Associate Minister)
Marc Imboden (Worship Minister)
Nancy Kinsey (Administrative Assistant)
Craig Hunter (Elder Chair)

Rick Aton (Elder)
Terry Blaker (Elder)
Joe Fenimore (Elder in Training)
Carl Pafford (Elder)
Joshua Walker (Elder)

UPDATE: MAY 11, 2020

- On Friday, May 8, the PVCC Elders announced the following *tentative* “reopening” plan for our church:
 - o Sunday morning service will resume on May 31. Precautions will include:
 - Those over 65 or considered “high risk” should stay home (the service will be livestreamed for those unable to attend; details coming soon)
 - Wearing of masks for all in the building over the age of two (if you do not have your own mask, we will provide one for you)
 - No childcare classrooms available
 - Social distancing (chairs will be configured to allow six feet between each household; RSVPs will be sought to determine the appropriate number of chairs needed for each service). This includes no loitering or lingering (as much as we’d like to) before or after service.
 - Taking of Communion and reception of Offering will be altered to reduce touching common surfaces (details coming soon)
 - No coffee station
 - Regular cleaning will take place both during and after service
 - Steps will be taken to increase movement of air in the building (this may include HVAC settings, or opening windows and doors)

- ✓ We understand these precautions may seem inconvenient, uncomfortable, or even “over the top”; however, they do not prevent us from accomplishing the core purpose of Sunday morning: worshiping the Lord together.
- o Non-Sunday, smaller scale church events (such as Small Groups, Men’s and Women’s Ministries, Youth Group, etc.) are permitted to resume effective immediately, with the following precautions:
 - Those over 65 or considered “high risk” should stay home, or attend virtually
 - Wearing of masks for all over the age of two
 - Social distancing (six feet between households, no sharing of food/ drinks, hugs, handshakes, etc.)
 - When possible, meet outside (as mentioned above, open or moving air appears to reduce chances of spreading illness)
 - For now, no events inside the church building (parking lot, grass, and volleyball shelter are all available for use)
- ✓ We encourage the leaders of these ministries to be thoughtful, creative, and cautious in how they resume their activities.

CONCLUSION

- While we could have resumed Sunday morning service as early as May 10, waiting a few more weeks gives our leaders time to communicate and plan accordingly, to make sure we are as well-prepared as we can possibly be to serve our congregation safely, responsibly, and effectively. It also gives us time to see how our state’s “reopening” plan goes before we put our congregation at any unwise risk.
 - o We MUST stress the TENTATIVE nature of this plan. May 31 is our goal, desire, and hope – but it is not a guarantee.
 - Our leaders will keep a close eye on trends in our nation, state, and community as May 31 approaches. If there is evidence that “reopening” has not gone well, we will reevaluate our plan and make appropriate adjustments.
 - ✓ We take extremely seriously our responsibility for both the spiritual and physical wellbeing of our congregation. We

have no desire to put either at risk due to our own negligence, arrogance, incompetence, or impatience.

UPDATE: MAY 23, 2021

- Starting Sunday, May 23, PVCC has adopted the CDC's updated guidelines regarding masks.
 - We ask that unvaccinated people continue to wear masks during our Sunday morning service.
 - Vaccinated people are welcome to remove their masks if they feel comfortable doing so.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SENIOR MINISTER BEN HALLIBURTON.