



March 20, 2020

Good afternoon Brothers and Sisters,

We are living through unprecedented times. We can be thankful that our God reigns and that COVID-19 does not! While our lives have been changing in incredible ways, our God never changes! As believers we can still anticipate the experience of love, joy, and peace, because these come from God's Spirit (Gal 5:22-24). Still, we live in this world and must wrestle through how we ought to live based on what God expects of us, what the government is requiring of us, and what is wise and best in the short term based on recommendations we hear from the government and the medical community.

### So what does this mean for FBC Washington?

- **Cancel all in-person church gathering through and including April 5.** This honors both the legal limit set by Governor Whitmer and the recommendation of state and national agencies that recommend a limit of no more than 10 people.
- **Have a time of pastoral instruction.** We can't have "church" without gathering together. But I plan to provide a time of instruction and encouragement from Scripture. Our plan is to live stream from our [facebook page](#) on Sunday morning at 11:00 AM. Soon after our live event, we will post a video to our [website](#) and to YouTube. Pastor David plans to send out a weekly devotion on Wednesdays via email, our website, and facebook. We are looking at some other options that may help our church family.
- **Savor and support the body-life.** Here I am speaking of our church family. We can still build each other up in the faith (calls, texts, notes), and we can still find ways to share in life together. I pray that God would use this time where we are not able to meet to help us love and appreciate the times we *can* meet together.
- **See a need, help meet a need.** If you hear of a need someone has a physical or spiritual need, please find a safe way to either help meet it, or let one of our pastors know, and we will help.
- **Rest.** During times where we are not able to go as many places, please take advantage of the time to rest and refresh yourself spiritually and physically.
- **Review the situation continually.** We will communicate the plan for our church as information becomes available.

Jeremy Rainkin wrote a [hymn](#) in the 1800's that seems to have particular significance in a time like this:

*God be with you till we meet again.  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.*

**Phil Fitzgerald**

Pastor