

March 13, 2020

Dear Friends of Fairmont,

After prayer and careful reflection, the Session has decided to temporarily suspend public worship at Fairmont Presbyterian Church.

THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC WORSHIP AT FAIRMONT THIS SUNDAY.

The Session takes this unfortunate step reluctantly after consulting with our medical advisory group of physicians and we believe that it is the wisest course of action to slow the spread of the Coronavirus in our community and protect those who are most vulnerable. We believe that our obligation in all things is to be faithful to Jesus Christ not just in our worship, but in all that we do. And we recognize that Jesus himself prioritized the safety and welfare of human beings over the sabbath worship commands not as a violation of God's law, but rather as its fulfillment.

The Session will be seeking to resume public worship as soon as possible and will notify you as soon as that happens. But today, we do not know when we will be able to resume public worship.

Although we will not be holding public worship, Fairmont will be livestreaming its worship service on Facebook and we invite you to join us on-line at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. Instructions on how to do this will be sent in a congregational email.

We will also not be having regular, in-person classes and meetings at church. Please check with you meeting chairperson or instructor concerning meeting plans. Meetings and classes may occur online through Zoom. There will be no Lenten study class on Sunday morning.

Finally, at the present time the church office is open. If it becomes necessary to physically close our office, we will inform you, but church office operations should continue, albeit remotely. We would ask for your patience in this challenging time.

Please pray for the health of our community, pray for doctors, nurses, and health care providers, pray for our nation to be united in compassion and empathy, and pray for the Holy Spirit to protect and sustain us all.

Thank you for your faithfulness and understanding. May God bless you, and through you, may God bless our world.

HOW FAIRMONT IS RESPONDING TO CORONAVIRUS

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into to dwell, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7

We are living through a time of unprecedented questions and anxiety. We want you to know that the leaders of Fairmont Presbyterian Church take this threat seriously and are constantly monitoring as new developments occur.

So how are we responding?

We have formed a health advisory committee consisting of Dr. Jeff Adam, Dr. Taylor Kabacinski, and Dr. Anne Venable to inform and advise Fairmont leaders on the status of Covid-19 in our community and make changes to our ministry as they may be needed. These physicians receive daily, and sometimes hourly, updates from Premier Health Network, Kettering Health Network, Veterans' Affairs, the Ohio State Medical Board, and public health officials. Based on that information and their professional advice, we are taking the following actions:

Worship

1. Public worship on Sunday morning is temporarily suspended.
2. We will be streaming our worship services through FACEBOOK on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and invite you to join us in our virtual gathering. We would ask you all to "follow" the Fairmont FACEBOOK page, Fairmont Presbyterian Church, Kettering, OH: <https://www.facebook.com/FairmontPresbyterianChurch/> .
3. We encourage you to consider giving to Fairmont through our online giving portal <http://fairmontchurch.org/stewardship-and-giving/> rather than through the offering plate.
4. Information on how to do this will be sent in a congregational email.

Meetings, Gatherings, and Classes

Please check with you meeting chairperson to determine whether scheduled meetings will occur. All church meetings can be conducted through ZOOM if that becomes necessary. We ask that all members of

Session, Trustees, Deacons, PYC members, and participants in our Christian Formation classes download the ZOOM app to your preferred streaming device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone). Information on how to do this will be sent in a congregational email.

Office Operations

If it becomes necessary to suspend in-person office operations, our office will continue to operate virtually. We would ask for your patience if responses to communications are slightly delayed.

Fairmont Preschool

We are constantly monitoring the recommendations of Kettering City Schools. The Fairmont Preschool is currently on Spring Break. Following the closure of Kettering City Schools, the Preschool will be closed until at least Monday April 6.

Pastoral Care

If there are pastoral care emergencies, please call Pastor Brian on his cell phone at 937-269-2864 or Pastor Kelley at 937-751-0752. Please understand that there will likely be restrictions placed upon visitors (including pastors) to hospitals and residential care facilities.

FINALLY, AND MOST OF ALL, PRAY

Please pray for the health and safety of everyone in our community and around the world.

Please pray for all our healthcare providers to be strengthened

Please pray for our leaders to be wise and courageous

Please pray for faith that drives away all fear

And, finally please pray for the Holy Spirit to make us one in Christ Jesus as we face this challenge together

We will continue to inform you as soon as new developments occur. Thank you for all your help, your participation in these safeguards and your prayers.