



## THE HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 12, 2020

Dear members and friends of Heights Pres. –

In light of the growing concern about the coronavirus, the leadership at Heights Pres. has decided that we will not be holding public worship this Sunday, March 15. Our small groups will continue being held from Tuesday through Saturday at the discretion of each small group leader, but our worship service at this time will be accessible via **livestream only, on our website, heightspres.org**. We'll notify you on the status of future weeks as the situation becomes more clear. It is with great heaviness of heart that I report this – as worship together in person is such a vital part of the life of the church. But it's a temporary measure, as it is our intent at Heights Pres. to participate in honoring the safety and health of our community. Though we are legally permitted to meet via the Governor's restrictions, we feel it's in the best interest of our neighbors for us to not meet together publicly. As the church – we'll continue to Love God. Love Each Other, and Love This City. It's a great time to join a small group - encourage one another with a phone call or a note, and check on your neighbors, particularly the elderly.

Further, we recognize that at this time there are just a few who have been diagnosed with this virus in our community, and yet, many people will be affected by restrictions on travel, encouragements to avoid public areas, and the shutdown of many public events. Today it was announced that schools will be closed for three weeks, complicating the lives of thousands in our community. While the elderly are most vulnerable to the disease itself and thus are largely confined to their homes, many in our community are affected who work in retail positions at restaurants and stores, send kids to public places for education and childcare, and care for their elderly relatives and neighbors. **So this is where we feel the church can be most of service to you.** If you need help with anything at this time, contact us. If you're an older resident, and you don't feel you should go out, and need something from the store, we can get it and leave it on your porch. If you're having trouble finding childcare and must have it so you can work, please let us know. If you can't work right now because your hours were cut or you are being asked to stay home, tell us, we can help. Consequences from large public crises like this can be varied and sometimes unpredictable, but we're here to help.

There are two ways to contact the church –  
by email at [office@heightspres.org](mailto:office@heightspres.org) or by phone at 314-707-6050.

Finally, be in prayer. Pray for our community, those who are sick, those who will get sick, and for the safety of our community, particularly our elderly neighbors. Reflect on faithful people like Catherine of Siena, who during the Black Plague in Europe, organized the church in mobility to care for the thousands of sick at the risk of their own lives. Historically, it has been the church that has started hospitals and orphanages – caring for the souls of neighbors as well as their bodies. This time is no different; let us in the power of the Holy Spirit care for our neighbors and continue to cling to Christ's words when he said, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Rev. 21:5).

In Him,

Rev. Mark Robertson  
On behalf of the leadership of Heights Pres.

