



March 17, 2020

Dear CFC Family and Friends,

The last two weeks have left all of us dazed and confused. Not since 9/11 have we lived in a world so unsettling and scary. In these days of confusion and concern, I call on all of us to remember the words of Jesus to his disciples and therefore to his people:

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

And from David in Psalm 23:

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

Our comfort in these times of economic, social, political, and physical suffering must rest in the promises of God to us through his son Jesus. In Christ we have

every spiritual blessing that exists, and Christ remains our **only** comfort in this life and the next!

News this week of quarantines, event cancellations, and the necessity of social distancing in light of COVID-19 has been difficult to process. While not wanting to over-react, we do want to be wise and thoughtful, caring well for those in our church and community. Since our government through the CDC, the President, and our Governor have called on all of us to limit meetings to 10 people or less, the Session made the following hard but sober decisions:

- In order to best serve our church family and mitigate the spread of illness CFC elders have decided to discontinue in-person worship services and meetings of more than 10 people for the next 3 weeks - through April 6<sup>th</sup>. We will reevaluate at that point to determine how to move forward.
- For each of the next three Sundays, we will hold one, online-only worship service at 10AM. A link to that service will be on our website and will be emailed to you ahead of time.
- Over the next three weeks we will continue to monitor and evaluate what is happening in the culture and where we need to be as a church.
- **This means that every event scheduled in the name of CFC or being put on by CFC in any form or fashion which has 10 or more people involved is canceled until further notice.**

We do not relish making this decision and we did not make it lightly or casually but with much prayer and discussion. We are sorry it has come to this. This is heartbreaking.

As your Pastor, I want to plead with our older faithful and loving members to take special care of yourselves. "Older" means anyone who is 65 and above. This isn't my interpretation; it is the CDC's. Everyone 65 and above is more at risk of serious complications, including death, if the virus is contracted. Don't become a statistic. This is a very, very real event.

We love you. We want to be with you. But for your own health and in order to spare Tucson's ventilators and ICU rooms for others, we need you to take social distancing very seriously and stay at home as much as you can.

If you need any help at all, CFC is ready and willing. We can shop for you; we can pick up medicine for you; we can help you with anything you need!! Don't be afraid to ask. We want to help!

What can all of us do?

1. **Pray for our church, our city, our nation, and the world.** Our God is sovereign over all things. Though we may be tempted to worry and be anxious, we can have confident hope in the Lord, who works all things together for the good of those who love him.
2. **Take proper precautions when you gather together.** You and your children should wash hands often and/or use hand-sanitizer to help prevent the spread of germs.
3. **If you or your children are feeling sick, please stay home as much as you can. Especially over these next few weeks as the country strives to lessen the impact of this virus. If you have been in close contact with someone who is sick, please stay home.** It has become apparent that many people are spreading this illness without even realizing it.
4. **If you are at-risk for more serious complications as a result of COVID-19 please do not leave your home at all.**
5. **Serve one another and our neighbors.** In the coming days, it will become clearer how we can care for one another, especially those of us who cannot or should not leave home. Let's be eager to serve each other and our neighbors as needed. If we are quarantined at some point, please reach out to, and stay in communication with your small group, friends, and neighbors. For now, this is the primary way in which we can serve and care for each other.

Please know that your CFC Elders, Deacons, and Staff will continue to closely monitor the statements issued by government leaders and the CDC. Many of our church members, including some of our Elders, are also members of the local medical community whose counsel we are also listening to.

On Sunday during our online worship service, I will be taking a few moments to speak briefly to this issue and to update you. If anything changes between Sundays, we will let you know via email and our website. It is very important that you are signed up for our weekly email “The Footprint”, so that you are receiving the most current updates. See below for instructions.

In the meantime, continue to follow the guidance of the CDC and our civic leaders, and please let our office know if you or someone you know tests positive for COVID-19 so that we can help, pray, and take all appropriate measures.

If you are in need of prayer, please email [prayers@cfcPCA.org](mailto:prayers@cfcPCA.org).

In Christ

John

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2. Click on the blue and white graphic that says “The Footprint Click Here to Subscribe”
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The Footprint Weekly email update is typically sent Friday mornings. We may send additional emails as necessary to keep you updated.