

Family and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg,

I am writing to report a very healthy conversation and deliberation amongst the staff of FPCLY this morning. After much consideration, we feel it is important to be as proactive to the spread of COVID-19, coronavirus, as possible. Yesterday we emailed and made available on the website 4 actions we have agreed to implement. The first two are already taking place. The third is something we plan to encourage all worship attendees to do in relationship to how we would ask each person to greet one another and pass the peace during this time. And the fourth is a communion protocol we will need to consider as precaution in April with Holy Week and Easter services.

The purpose of this message is to inform you that the staff of FPCLY has decided to take an extra precautionary step to limit social gatherings for this weekend and reevaluate future gatherings starting Monday. Further conversation will take place Tuesday night at the Stated Session Meeting and we will be prepared to discuss a more in-depth plan moving forward at that time.

At this time, our approach is to “push the pause button” and see which direction things move. We hope and pray for the best, but due to current unknowns and easy spreading of such a virus, the following steps have been put in place for this weekend:

- **Worship on Sunday, March 15 at 10:30 am will be open for all who feel well and would like a place to come worship.** Greeters will be at the door to inform and invite extreme hygiene practices for all attending. Also, **Nursery will be available beginning at 10:15 am for parents who plan to attend.** All our classrooms have been cleaned very well and the Nursery staff will see to further cleaning throughout the morning Sunday.
 - We are grateful for the opportunity to also **worship through the Live Radio Broadcast on 105.9 FM WLNI at 10:30 am Sunday morning.** Therefore, if you are not feeling well or have been traveling lately, we would like to encourage you to stay home and worship with us on the radio. A bulletin to follow along can be found on the home page of our website: www.fpclly.org.
- **All program gatherings through the weekend have been postponed or cancelled.** This includes:
 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal for Tonight, March 12 (Including Soprano and Tenor Sectionals)
 - Chancel Choir participation for Sunday, March 15
 - Coffee Café for Sunday, March 15
 - Spiritual Growth Classes for all ages (Faith Mountain to Adult) for Sunday, March 15
 - Lemonade and Cookies for Sunday, March 15
 - PW Sister Stories (Lunch and Program) for Sunday, March 15
 - KidMin for Sunday Night, March 15
 - Walk with God for Sunday Night, March 15
 - MS and HS Youth Group for Sunday, March 15

Our strong encouragement as a staff is to do our best in looking at this as a gift rather than a curse. We don't have to look at this scenario as a closed door completely. We feel it can be looked at as a chance to spend time with family, stop rushing around, call a friend or family member and reconnect, play a board game, read scripture, reflect, and pray. To help us all gather in the same spirit, we have included two suggestions for activity and devotion. One is for families to do together and one is a Lenten devotional.

Please stay tuned. We will do our best to be in touch with everyone soon. If you have any questions or concerns for any of us, please let us know. We pray for the health and wellness of all and will look forward to seeing you all soon.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith.

Your FPCLY Staff
(Peter, Chad, Cory, Kathleen, Lori, Karen, and Catherine)