

March 16, 2020

First Presbyterian Church-Bryan Friends,

Thank you for continuing to follow best practices to ensure health maintenance and minimize the spread of this COVID-19 viral pandemic. After consultation with our Session Elders on Monday, March 16, following the most recent Center for Disease Control directive – which the City of Bryan is following, I am sending the following:

After 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, all in-person gatherings for worship and other elective meetings will be cancelled until further notice. We are told this could be a minimum of eight weeks. **More information will be forthcoming and posted this week on the church website* related to alternative ministry opportunities during this time period, which includes (but is not limited to) Sunday worship possibilities via the church's website and Facebook.** Church members who do not have internet capabilities will be notified via both the U.S. Postal Service and phone calls about both this cancellation and ministry efforts during this interim period.

Church committees, classes, and groups will make respective interim plans for staying in contact with one another and maintaining shared ministries during this time. Additionally, **please advise the church office or one/both pastors of your situation if any measures of specific support can be arranged to assist your vulnerabilities.** We have a group of FPC-Bryan friends and members who have volunteered to assist in running errands and delivering items to place-restricted members. Let us take advantage of the outreach which these folks desire to make possible.

Obviously, **the church's financial needs continue** as both a ministry-and-mission-center and a faith community. The church office is open M-F (8:30am-3:30pm). Financial contributions can be hand-delivered to the church or mailed. **The Stewardship and Finance Committee has been researching the best possibilities for FPC to procure secure online contribution services. Specific information will be forthcoming soon.**

Finally, we all wish this could be different. This real-life crisis necessitates our diligent cooperation with public health authorities' wisdom and planning for the entire nation to emerge beyond this threat.

With constant gratitude for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ...

Grace and peace,

Ted V. Foote, Jr.

Pastor and Moderator of Session
(cell: 918-520-7820)

P.S. Even before this declaration of cancelled gatherings, the church's Facebook page has featured and continues to feature engaging videos including: Lenten Devotionals; an educational series on Praying and Color; and some story time and stretching for all ages.

FPC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FPCBryan>

* FPC website: www.fpcbryan.org