

Church Communication March 20, 2020

Hello Church!

I hope this finds you doing well.

Though I know all of us would love to be together - it is good to be with you in this way for now

I wanted to take a few minutes and update you on our plan moving forward.

Before I share that plan - I want to say thank you.

The elders and staff appreciate the prayers and encouragement we've received over the last several days. We know this is an unprecedented time and that churches are all taking steps to do whatever they can to make sure their churches are being cared for - and that is our highest priority right now.

We're going to get through this! We believe God is going to use this

Here's our plan for the next couple of weeks.

1. CANCELLED GATHERINGS

We are canceling all worship services and events through the end of March.

That means that **we will not have church at the building this Sunday, March 22nd** or the following **Sunday, March 29th.**

If this ends up being extended further, we will communicate that near the end of March.

We know that this decision may come as a disappointment to some, but as we have prayed and discussed this among the leadership we have decided that this is the best way to do our part in the fight against the spread of this virus.

The City of Kaufman has also issued an order that makes any gathering over 50 people punishable by fine and we sort of expect the county to issue something similar in the coming days. That means that any creative attempts that we might come up with to gather but at a distance really would be in violation of this order.

Cancelling things through March also means that **SERVE DAY** will not happen this month.

We are thinking about creative ways to still have some **FORM** of Serve Day for those of you that are interested in and looking for ways to serve.

So stay tuned for those details in the coming week!

2. SUNDAY ONLINE GATHERINGS

We WILL CONTINUE to meet online EVERY Sunday and are working on making the experience even better than last Sunday.

This Sunday we will start at 10:30am with some worship songs and would encourage you to gather with your family to share that worship time together.

After some songs I will have some teaching and we will lead everyone in a time of communion. Those pieces will be both be interactive through the comments section of Facebook Live.

If you are not on Facebook - this is a great time to give in to the pressure and sign up!

Be sure that you **"LIKE"** the Kaufman Church of Christ Facebook Page as well.

This will guarantee that you will see updates and announcements that are shared there.

That being said, if Facebook is not your thing, we are working on a plan for you as well. We hope to record the worship time and make that viewable by Sunday evening so that you can watch at home.

Be sure to get your communion supplies or come get them on Sunday from 9:00-10:00am. Kent and Joy Wilson will be at the church building every week.

We want everyone to be ready to share that time together as well!

Flour tortillas also work as unleavened bread in a crisis or just get the best loaf of bread you can find and share that with your family.

This is a GREAT time to include your kids in communion if that isn't already part of your practice. **We need the body of Christ in moments like this.** Let your kids participate!

If you need biblical support for this let me know and I'll send you a sermon I preached on it a couple of years ago. My biblical belief is that we all understand the Lord's Supper as much as we are able - that is true of you and your children.

This is a way to include them in the family meal and welcome them to the table **EVEN BEFORE** they make a public decision to follow Jesus. Which, by the way, is what Jesus did for all of us (welcomed us to the family meal and invited us to sit at his table even before we figured out what it meant to follow him fully.)

Ok....sermon over. Contact me if you want to visit about it further!

3. FACEBOOK LIVE DEVOTIONAL AND EVENING PRAYER

I am planning to host a Facebook Live Prayer/Devotional Time on Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:30 PM. I will do some of these and other members of our church will also lead some. We hope you will join us and share while you're watching!

4. CARING FOR ANOTHER

The elders and I met Wednesday night (*with appropriate social distancing*) :) and we want you to know that our goal is to work hard at trying to create community and care for one another during this time.

Our goal is to contact EVERY FAMILY at KCOC over the next several days.

You should be contacted by one of the elders or their wife.

It is our highest priority to care for you and we want to know if there is anything we can do or anything we can pray for during this time.

If you have a need during this time or learn of a need that someone else has, please contact a staff member or elder. If you need someone to shop for or pick up your groceries, if you run out of toilet paper or other items or would just like to visit with someone and have a conversation - **PLEASE let us know!**

As needs arise we may call on the body to help each other.

If you have an abundance of a certain supply, are feeling led to serve in a certain way or have a special skill (helping someone set up a Facebook account) please let me know.

We want to use our gifts to bless one another during this time.

5. RESOURCES

We have also been working on several things to help you and your family while we're away from one another.

You can find these resources on our church website at kaufmanchurch.org - some of you have never been to our website and now is great time to visit!

RIGHT NOW MEDIA -

EVERY member of our church has access to **Right Now Media**.

If you have a smart tv you can download the **Right Now Media App**.

There are thousands of Christian movies and Bible studies for all ages. You can also download this app on your phone or tablet. We pay for a monthly subscription that gives access to all of our members so you will never be charged for this!

Here's the link: <https://accounts.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/KaufmanCOC?returnUrl=https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Media/InviteReturn>

DWELL BIBLE APP -

Another resource we're making available to you is the **Dwell Bible App**.

This can be used for personal Bible Study and prayer time or for a shared time with others in your home. You can find the link for this resource below or through our website.

To access it through our website - go to the homepage and wait for the image to pop up (there are several images that are all on a rotation) and click the Dwell Bible image.

You'll click that image and sign up and **THEN** you'll go to your phone and download the app to your phone. There are even daily reading plans with different voices that will read to you!

Here's the link: <https://dwellapp.io/signup/with/Yn2cgk>

6. SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

A. **Kaufman ISD has asked our church to help them as they prepare deliver school lunches** to kids in Kaufman ISD. We will serve on Mondays for as long as school is out.

You'll need to be available starting at 10:00am.

I only need 5 people each day and I'll fill those slots as I receive your name.

If I get more than 10 I'll use your name for a later date as this situation gets extended.

The two slots that I am currently filling are for **Monday, March 23rd** and **Monday, March 30th**.

If they go beyond April 3 then we'll fill slots for the Mondays in April as well.

B. The Kaufman Help Center is in serious of need of extra canned goods. With grocery stores doing their best to keep up, organizations like The Center are not getting as many donations as they might typically receive.

If you have the opportunity to pick a few extra things **PLEASE** do that.

You can bring them to the church or take them directly to The Center.

7. STUDENT & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATES

Families with Children!

Suzanne had an awesome Easter project planned and we still want you to be able to do that and prepare for Easter Sunday.

All of the materials needed can be picked up at the church building **NEXT TUESDAY**.
Suzanne will be at the church building from 9:00-Noon and from 5-7pm.
Call or text her at (214) 354-1539 and she will meet you outside.

Students and Families with Teens!

Chris is in the process of thinking through some options for how to stay connected through various online mediums.

There is also a plan for **EACH** student to be paired up with one of our senior members.

We want to encourage each of our teens to contact someone that is older and check on them!

8. BUILDING USE

The building is going to be unavailable during this time.

The codes have been changed and cleared out.

The cleaning crew will be doing a thorough cleaning of the building from the auditorium to the gym. Limiting traffic at the building will help us keep it clean.

If you need in the building for any reason please text or email me (doug@kaufmanchurch.org) and I can schedule a time to let you in.

We appreciate your patience and prayers as we navigate this season.

I believe God is going to use this all for his glory and for the good of our church family.

We will get through this together!

Let's commit to pray for one another and check on each other, scroll through the Church Directory app and call someone and check on them.

I love you church!

I look forward to seeing you on Sundays and in other online formats.

Please let us know if we can serve or encourage you in any way.

May the Peace of Christ be in your hearts and minds.