

March 20, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the words of Louisa M.R. Stead in her precious 1882 hymn, “‘Tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease; just from Jesus simply taking life, and rest, and joy, and peace.” Isn’t it good to know in these chaotic times that we have a Savior who is absolutely sovereign over all? As we continue to watch the impact of coronavirus COVID-19 unfold upon our world, Christians can remain steadfast and calm, resting in the wonderful assurance that Jesus is Lord.

As His church, it remains prudent that we take precautions to exercise loving watchcare over one another during times of such distress. COVID-19 is a dangerous disease that has been declared a global pandemic. Its mortality rates, particularly among senior citizens, remain high; and the number of people infected by the virus has begun to increase significantly. According to the European CDC, the last four days respectively have seen 887, 1766, 2988, and 4835 new cases reported in the United States. On Monday, March 16, President Donald Trump urged Americans to take “15 Days to Slow the Spread” of COVID-19. The President, based off of guidance from the CDC, asked Americans to avoid gatherings of 10 or more people through the end of March. ***In light of these developments, and with respect to the requests from our government leaders, your deacons and I have reluctantly come to the decision that First Baptist Church of Douglass will not have services during this time, including Sundays, March 22 and 29 and Wednesdays, March 25 and April 1.***

We are actively working to be able to provide a pre-recorded service and/or a livestream of a worship service conducted with an empty sanctuary. Please pray for this process as there are numerous technical details to work out that are quite different from a normal service. Valerie Niblack has developed a Facebook page for our church which can be accessed at [www.facebook.com/FBCDouglass](https://www.facebook.com/FBCDouglass). We also plan to provide resources that you can use to engage in worship and study, either via our church website, [www.fbcdouglass.net](http://www.fbcdouglass.net) or via email. We will also be working to deliver resources to those who are not connected to the internet. None of us have ever been through anything quite like this before. Let us be faithful to lift one another up in prayer!

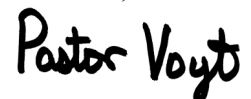
Please know that we fully intend to have church on Palm Sunday, April 5—barring some incredible and obviously dangerous local outbreak. Immediately after worship that day, we will have our quarterly business meeting. During that meeting, we request input from all members of FBC Douglass regarding how our church should proceed, given the reality of circumstances at that time.

During this time, let me urge you to be diligent to continue to support your church sacrificially with your tithes and offerings. Most of the budgetary and benevolent expenses of the church remain or are even increased due to the circumstances we face. If you are able, please drop off your tithe/offering between 9:00am-12:00pm Monday-Thursday; mail it to P.O. Box 603 Douglass, KS 67039; or contact me, and I will pick it up from you. We are studying the possibility of offering online giving via [www.fbcdouglass.net](http://www.fbcdouglass.net) as well.

Also, if you are hesitant to get out but find yourself in need of some groceries, Jeremy and Tiffany Craun (who works at Dillons) have indicated that they are willing to shop for you and deliver the groceries to your house. You can reimburse them by check or cash at delivery. Similarly, your other deacons and I stand ready to help you however we can!

Finally, let me exhort all of us to continue in prayer regarding the effects of COVID-19. As we strive to “Slow the Spread” of COVID-19, let us join our hearts together before the throne, seek His face, and pray.

In Christ,



Pastor Voyt Lynn