

March 26, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Jesus' church during times of such distress, it continues to be wise for us to take precautions against the possibility of spreading this virus, even while we strive to find new ways to exercise loving watchcare over one another. 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 continues to climb dramatically. In just the last six days 54,944 Americans have been diagnosed with COVID-19. Prior to that, a total of only 14,250 Americans had been diagnosed. With nearly quadruple the number infected compared to only six days ago, civic leaders are legitimately concerned about the rate of infection as we move into the future. 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, First Baptist Church of Douglass will hold to our plan this week of not having services on Sunday, March 29 and Wednesday, April 1.***

We will again provide resources that you can use to engage in worship and Sunday School for all ages at home, including a pre-recorded worship service via our church website, [www.fbcdouglass.net](http://www.fbcdouglass.net). Click the "Media" tab near the top, middle of the page. We will once again also produce a livestream of a worship service conducted with an empty sanctuary at 10:30am Sunday morning via Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/FBCDouglass](http://www.facebook.com/FBCDouglass). Please pray for this process as we work to find a reliable webcam and as we trust that external internet resources can handle the load of thousands of churches doing the same thing at the same time! Let us be faithful to lift one another up in prayer!

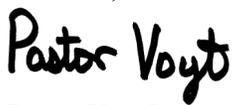
Please know that we still want to gather for church on Palm Sunday, April 5—barring civic mandate or continued viral spread that becomes obviously dangerous. It is possible that such services may be held outdoors to accommodate social distancing guidelines. Immediately after worship that day, we will have our quarterly business meeting. During that meeting, we would like input from all members of FBC Douglass regarding how our church should proceed, given the reality of circumstances at that time. Yet, we must recognize that it is possible, and perhaps even likely, that we may be unable to proceed with these plans. I would welcome your suggestions and input regarding how our church can meet, worship, and minister within our community in the midst of these circumstances. Please write your thoughts down and email them to me at [pastor@fbcdouglass.net](mailto:pastor@fbcdouglass.net).

Let me once again 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 plan to offer online giving via our website, [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