

Dear First UMC Arlington Family,

As I mentioned in my previous letter, things are evolving and changing very rapidly with the COVID-19 or Coronavirus situation. Today, the Arlington ISD and most other Tarrant County school districts announced that with recommendations from the health department they are canceling school and all activities until March 30. You may have also heard that Dallas County has declared a public health emergency and has banned gatherings of more than 500 people for any reason including religious gatherings. With all of these developments, and because of our great care for our entire congregation and city population, **we will be closing the church and all activities in connection with the Arlington ISD protocol until Monday, March 30, 2020.**

This means that the offices and building will be closed for worship and other planned events/activities until March 30. We will be offering online worship, studies, and other communication, and we hope and pray that we will be able to stay connected to God, each other, and ministry to our community and our world. Our commitment to offering God our prayers, presence (even if virtual), gifts, service, and witness are just as important in this circumstance (if not even more so) than normal. **Please keep the church and our community in your prayers, join us for online studies and worship, offer your financial gifts electronically or through mail to continue supporting our vital ministries outside the walls of our church, serve one another in love and grace, and talk about the importance of your faith during times like this.**

We are so grateful for you and for our whole church community and we are thankful to be in ministry together, even if that will have to look slightly different for the next few weeks. If you need anything at all, there will always be a pastor on call, we will be checking email and working remotely as a staff, and we are here for you if we can minister to you in any way. In my more than 20 years of ministry, this is a first, and it is with a heavy heart that we take such action, however, I deeply believe that caring for one another in any way that we can is a vital part of our Christian witness and we offer this out of love, not from a place of fear nor panic. I hope you will join us in that spirit.

May God bless and keep,
Pastor Chris

ONLINE WORSHIP

We are still finalizing details for online worship this Sunday, but plan to have Sunday's sermon recorded and posted online for you to watch. Sermons can be found on our Facebook and Vimeo pages.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcarlington
Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/fumcofarlington>