

To our church family,

If we are honest, we aren't really sure what is going to happen in the next few weeks and months with COVID-19, but we are doing our best to make decisions that show respect and love to the people in our church and our community. We feel like the best way to do that is to respect the advice of the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health, which means as long as they recommend groups over 10 refrain from meeting, we will remain closed. As of right now, everything is cancelled through Sunday, March 29, and we will continue to update this decision each week at least *eight days in advance* and notify you through OneCallNow and our church Facebook page. Currently, if Sunday morning services are cancelled, assume that all church programming is cancelled for the week. If you are not on the OneCallNow system and you would like to be added, please contact the church office. Here is some information you may find useful as we navigate this journey together.

- 1) If services are cancelled, we will be streaming online (www.doverfcc.com and facebook.com/doverfcc) every Sunday at 10:30am and Wednesday Night at 6:00pm. We will also attempt to provide regular updates for our kids and families at facebook.com/doverfccyouth. If you are interested in sermon recordings, please contact the church office.
- 2) Another great resource for teaching and training is www.rightnowmedia.com (it functions like a Netflix for Bible studies and sermons). Our church provides a subscription for anyone who would like access, and the website has Bible studies, sermons, kids programming, and much more. If you don't have an account and would like to utilize this great resource, send Josh a message at josh@doverfcc.com with the email you would like to register, and he will make sure you get an invitation.
- 3) If you would like to have communion, the building will be open from 9:30am-12:30pm every day Monday through Friday. We have placed a table in the front lobby with individually packaged communion cups and wafers. Please only take enough to last for a week or two. We can also attempt to arrange delivery of cups if you would like.
- 4) This may be the greatest opportunity in our lifetime to love and serve those around us. Beyond the disease itself, the closing of schools, restaurants, movie theaters, and other businesses will cause financial hardships and other logistical problems for families in our community. The second pages of this letter includes some simple ways to being helping, but as events unfold, we expect there will be several updates. Josh is working with a county-wide task force to develop a strategy to minister as efficiently as possible. In the upcoming days and week, we will be sharing resources that might benefit you, and informing you ways you can volunteer and serve others in the community. These updates will occasionally be passed along through OneCallNow, but there is often too much information to share that way, so the full updates will be located at doverfcc.com/updates (click on the Updates menu tab) or facebook.com/doverfcc.
- 5) We depend on your generosity for the ministry of our church, probably now more than ever as we seek to help those in our community who are struggling. If you would like to continue to give and support the church during this difficult season, you can donate money four ways. First, you can mail a check to the church office (3029 N. Wooster Ave, Dover, OH 44622). Secondly, we will have a locked donation box in the foyer with the communion cups (again, open Monday-Friday, 9:30am-12:30pm) where you can place your offering. Finally, we are setting up online giving. When it is functional (likely Monday, March 23), you will be able to give online by going to doverfcc.com/give (click on the Give button on the menu). We can also pick up your offering when we bring communion or groceries to your house.
- 6) We want to stay connected during the next few weeks and months. You will be getting regular calls (every 7-14 days) from one of the ministers or shepherds. We want to check in, make sure you are ok, pray with you, and help meet any needs you may have. It would be a blessing to many in our church if you would follow this example and plan to reach out to 1-2 families a week through phone or text.
- 7) We are here to help. If you need food, help picking up medicine, a lawn mowed, or just someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to reach out to someone in the leadership. This is new territory for all of us, but we are going to love each other and work through this together.

In Christ,

Bob Anders, Ray Beal, Andrew George, Rich Halchuck, and Josh Robinson
Dover First Christian Church

Ways you Can Be Light

Ways you can serve at the church

1. We plan to offer to do shopping for some of our folks who either should not or can not go shopping on their own. If you would be willing to do grocery shopping or run other errands for some of our senior citizens, please contact the church office so we can put together a team of workers. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of assistance getting food, please contact a shepherd or the church office and we will provide grocery delivery.
2. We want to allow people to use our internet access and utilize our printer to do their online school work or office work. We will schedule appointments for people to use the building so we can keep people healthy, but we will need folks to help supervise this ministry. You will also be responsible for sanitizing their study space so it can be used for another student. If you know of a family or student who could use this service, please have them reach out to our church.
3. Because we are utilizing our building to distribute communion, collect offering, deliver food, and provide internet, we may need help covering the office. If you would be willing to sit in the office and answer phones/give people basic answers, please let the church office know. The more people who can help cover the office, the more hours we can make our building available.
4. We are creating a call database to make sure everyone in our church is contacted on a regular basis. If only our leadership is making calls, it will take us two weeks to reach out to everyone. If you'd be willing to make 7-8 phone calls a week, we can make sure everyone is contacted more regularly.

Ways you can serve on your own

1. Pray. Pray for our healthcare workers. Ask God to protect them, give them strength, and help them make wise decisions. Pray for our leaders. Ask God to give them wisdom and discernment. Pray for your neighbors. Ask God to protect them from fear and anxiety. Pray for our church. Ask God to help us be light to our neighbors during this season.
2. Provide childcare for people who still need to go to work. If you are a stay at home mom, or your job now requires you to work from home or stay home, reach out to your neighbors and friends who might need childcare now that the schools are closed (it looks like schools might be out for a few months).
3. Provide for those who aren't working. You can provide food for them, hire them to watch your kids, or find some other creative way to help support them. There are a lot of food-service and other hourly workers who have suddenly lost their income; reach out to them and see what they need.
4. Check in on your neighbors, especially if you have elderly or sick neighbors. Knock on some doors or make some phone calls. Ask how they are doing on food, medicine, and other supplies. Serve them in whatever way you can.
5. Support our local businesses. With restaurants being closed or forced to go to carry-out only, many of them will struggle financially. Give them your financial support by purchasing take out. If eating out isn't something you feel comfortable with right now, consider purchasing a gift card to use at a future date.
6. Send letters and pictures to folks in nursing homes or shut in. Visitation has been restricted to many of these people, have your kids color a picture or write a note of encouragement. If you need a place to send them, contact the church office and we will mail them for you or give you an address you can use.