

To our church family,

It's been a month since the first stay at home order was issued. A month of not going to school, not meeting in person for worship, and not being to live life "as normal." We are aware that everyone has their own viewpoint on how things are going ranging from complete fear to absolute anger that things have been cancelled. Wherever you fall on the scale, please know that we are doing our best to navigate this situation with respect and love for the members of our congregation and our community. Part of that includes continuing to host services online as long as that is the recommendation of the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health. We want to gather together again as soon as possible, but we also want to be cautious and loving as we protect the health of those around us. Here are a few updates about what we are trying to accomplish in the mean time.

- 1) In person services are cancelled through the end of April, we will be watching for updates before making any decisions on May. When in-person services are cancelled, we will be streaming online (www.doverfcc.com, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), and [facebook.com/doverfcc](https://www.facebook.com/doverfcc)) every Sunday at 10:30am and Wednesday Night at 6:00pm. Our youth ministry has been meeting digitally at 7:00pm on Wednesday nights; if you would like to be a part of this Bible Study, contact Andrew (andrew@doverfcc.com) or the church office (330-364-3520). If you are interested in sermon recordings, please contact the church office.
- 2) We continue to keep the building open Monday-Friday from 9:30am-12:30pm. This is a resource to help people who need food, want to pick up communion or a copy of the worship services, need to drop off their offering (*giving can also been done online at doverfcc.com/give or by mailing it to the church*), and to keep the phones open for anyone in need. If you come to the church during those hours, enter through the front door, attempt to limit contact with other people (*including our office staff*) as much as possible, and take advantage of the sanitizing wipes to wipe down any surfaces you touched during your time in the building. This may seem extreme, but we want to be abundantly cautious with the health of everyone in our community.
- 3) We have been reaching out to everyone connected with our church on a regular basis for the past month, and this will continue. These phone calls keep us up to date with what is happening in your life and give us a chance to take care of one another. We have a team of a dozen folks who have been making these calls in addition to many people who have been making calls on their own. Thank you for caring for one another. We want to offer this as a resource for your friends and family. If you know someone who is lonely, or could just use a regular check-in, ***even if they are not a part of our church, we would love to help take care of them during this difficult season.***
- 4) We have been blessed with the opportunity to provide food for a few families over the past few weeks. After four weeks of isolation, I have a feeling that you might be aware of folks who are in need of supplies. Whether it is the loss of a job that has created a financial burden or health issues that makes it unwise for them to go to the store, we want to help. If you know of anyone who needs help getting basic supplies, ***even if they are not part of the church family***, please let us know. We have several folks who already volunteered to do shopping and delivery as it is needed, and we want to take care of our community.
- 5) We have been attempting to come up with some ways to help with the disconnect and distance many of you are feeling. Over the next few weeks ***I'd like to start*** hosting some online meetings. We might play some games together, spend some time in prayer together, or simply chat about how life is going. If you would be interested in participating, please send me your email address and what day/times work best for you (josh@doverfcc.com or text to 234-369-9023)
- 6) We greatly enjoyed the ability to share the gifts of our church on Easter Sunday. As we continue to spend our time worshipping online, we'd love to include people in our digital services. If you are interested in pre-recording a communion meditation, scripture reading, or special music that can be included, please reach out to the church office and we'll make arrangements.
- 7) Regular updates can be found online. You can access them at www.doverfcc.com/updates or our Facebook page. We have been sharing regular articles to help you in your spiritual growth, access to a database with local resources, and a lot of other information.

We know this is a challenging time, and we want to be there to help. If there is anything you need or if you have a suggestion on how we can better navigate this season, please reach out and let us know.

In Christ,

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