

Dear Fort Bend Community Church Family, (March 18, 2020)

Five days have passed since our decision to make all church meetings online. Since then, the pandemic has intensified. Restaurants are closing dine-in options, grocery stores have lines out the door and our nation is in distress. In a few weeks I will be preaching from the book of Proverbs and in Proverbs 12:25 it states: “Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.” When I read this verse, I thought of our community and how when we turn to scripture, His word makes us glad. I also know that transparency and information during this time also brings relief to our anxiety. I want you to know that we are doing everything we can to be transparent and to share information with you as soon as possible.

We made the decision to have online meetings for the following two weeks. But last night the FBCC COVID-19 response team decided to continue our online meeting format for small groups, Sunday School and Sunday Worship until April 10th. This date aligns with FBISD’s decision to suspend normal operations until such time. Our first possible service could be Easter Sunday! However, if the situation changes, this timing may be extended.

Our worship services online this past week exceeded our expectations. We had hundreds of people watching and worshipping the Lord together in all four services and we had over a thousand views for our English, Mandarin and Cantonese worship. This is a good word, as described in Proverbs. Please continue to worship with us online each Sunday. [Click here for Sunday Worship](#). Please consider tithing online. [Click here to tithe online](#).

We also wanted to let you know that no congregant, attendee or visitor of FBCC has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 as of this date. But in the spirit of transparency, if a congregant, attendee or visitor contracts it, with their consent and while withholding their identity we will make an announcement to our church family to encourage all those who had direct and recent contact with such individual to enter into self-quarantine. If you contract COVID-19, please let the pastoral staff know so we can protect our community better. It is important that we do not shun or cast aside anyone who contracts COVID-19. We need to be the loving community that God created us to be. This brings glory to our God.

In the spirit of being a Church that loves the community, the Church has decided to carry on with our food fair. We are aware of the risks but those that we serve in our food fair have urgent needs to feed their family, especially during this time when jobs are diminishing. While the Care Center has a great plan to serve those who attend our food fair, we are still taking the necessary precautions for safety and practicing social distancing. If you have any concerns or questions about this ministry please visit their webpage and contact them by [clicking here](#).

The church is dedicated to providing information to you as quickly as possible. We thank you for your patience as we’ve navigated the last two weeks. All communication will be sent to you via this e-newsletter and will be posted on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to me. I am looking forward to seeing you all online again this coming Sunday and in various small group meetings throughout the week.

With blessing and mercy,

Pastor Samuel Kwan, on behalf of the FBCC COVID-19 Response Team.

Dear Fort Bend Community Church Family, (3/12/20)

In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul encourages us with these words. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” The past two weeks have brought great anxiety in our community. The church leaders have been in prayer, seeking the Lord’s direction, and we feel at peace with how God is directing us at this time. During this Lent season and the COVID-19 pandemic, I pray that we focus our eyes on Jesus and the hope that is found in our Lord Jesus Christ. Easter is quickly approaching and with the celebration of our Christ’s resurrection we rejoice and find hope in this broken world.

In our last letter dated on March 6, 2020, we announced a few measures we were taking to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Response Team has decided to move all meetings at FBCC, including small group, Sunday School and Sunday Worship to online meetings for the next two weeks (March 15-28). We will follow our regular worship hour schedule online. (9:30 AM for Chinese Worship and 11:15 AM for English Worship) We encourage you to join us in small group, Sunday School and Sunday Worship online. In addition, the doors at the church will not be open to the general public during the next two weeks. After this period has passed, we will reassess the situation and make any further decisions. After long discussions with our elders, staff and medical personnel, we believe that this is the wisest decision. No congregant, attendee or visitor of FBCC has a confirmed case of COVID-19. We hope that these measures will slow the spread of COVID-19 in Fort Bend County and Houston and help to prevent a sustained period of having to deal with this pandemic.

COVID-19 is now part of our lives. We don’t know how long this will last but we as a society and as a church need to learn how to live with this new standard of normal. We will continue to adopt a heightened level of hygiene and cleanliness for church activities and encourage all to be vigilant in our personal hygiene. We all need to be socially responsible and refrain from attending any gatherings when we are unwell. This is not just a matter of personal preference, but a crucial necessity at this time.

In addition, we have decided to postpone the launch of our Pearland campus. We have not set a time for the relaunch but will do so as soon as it is safe. We are also postponing baptisms until a later date.

Meet us for worship online, [click here on Sunday](#). Contact your congregational Pastor for information about meeting online through zoom or other online meeting avenues for small group and Sunday School. For our weekly bulletin, [click here for English](#) or [click here for Chinese](#). For parents of children, the children’s ministry has prepared a materials for you to teach and guide your children through discipleship. [Click here for your guide](#). All parents should have received a password in their email to access the material. Please contact the Children’s Ministry if you did not receive a password. We are committed to exploring various options, including leveraging technology to continue our worship as a community. The rapidly changing situation also means we need to remain flexible and open to changes that will occur in the future. Lastly, please consider tithing online: [click this link](#).

We want to remind you that if you feel ill, please contact your physician for medical assistance. It has been recommended that you do NOT make walk-in visits to any into a clinics, but call ahead of time to allow health workers to prepare for your visit. Please be socially responsible and refrain from any gatherings when you are unwell, as indicated by symptoms of sore throat, fever, cough, runny nose, difficulty breathing or any respiratory symptom. By doing so you are showing what it means to care for, love and respect our church and city at this time.

As I write this letter I’m reminded of Proverbs 3:5-6. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” We need to trust

in God's plan at this time. God is always at work and He is at work in the COVID-19 pandemic. He will lead us as we acknowledge him. Let us move straight along the path God has provided for us.

With blessing and mercy,

Pastor Samuel Kwan, on behalf of the FBCC COVID-19 Response Team.

(3/6/20)

Dear Fort Bend Community Church Family,

As a response to the latest news about the COVID-19 coronavirus, we want to let you know that we are closely monitoring updates and following the guidance of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), The Texas Department of State Health Services, the Harris County Health Department, the Houston Health Department, and the Fort Bend County Health and Human Services.

If you or any member of your family or household has travelled outside of the United States to any of the countries/territories listed by the CDC as a level 1 to level 3 travel notice, we ask that you self-quarantine for 14 days after you return and not attend church for your safety and the safety of others. To date (3/6/20) these are the countries and territories listed: China, South Korea, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong and Iran. For an updated list of what countries/territories are listed by the CDC, [click this link](#).

FBCC strives to meet the highest standards when the health and safety of our attendees, visitors and employees are at hand. FBCC will exercise these daily sanitation practices and procedures to provide a strong defense against COVID-19 and most other illnesses. These practices include but are not limited to:

- More frequent extensive facility cleaning of restrooms and lobby areas.
- Staff will be required to practice preventative measures such as frequent hand washing and cough hygiene. Pastoral staff will not be shaking hands at this time (please do not be offended, this is for everyone's safety)
- Increase the frequency of disinfecting children's ministry toys using nontoxic sanitizer
- Increase the frequency of disinfecting often-touched areas such as door handles
- Provide hand sanitizer in the lobbies for you and your family to readily use

In addition to the above practices, FBCC will:

- Stop lunch service and snacks from March 8 – March 29.
- Offering will be limited to offering drop box use only. Please also consider tithing online: [click this link](#).

We follow the recommendations of local and federal health authorities in order to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the flu, as well as other upper respiratory viruses. Some of the recommendations include these prevention tips:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60 % alcohol
- Avoid touching the face including the eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you are sick, stay home
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then dispose of it
- Get plenty of rest
- Avoid sharing food and eating utensils with others
- Avoid unnecessary travels

FBCC will continue to closely monitor updates and follow the guidance of the health authorities mentioned above. As always, your FBCC team is available to answer any of your questions. We will be sharing updated and important information through our website, newsletter, social media accounts and church dial-in hotline. Please keep checking these sources for updated information regarding FBCC worship and other activities.

Please keep our church, community, city, nation and world in your prayers during this time of uncertainty and concern.

Blessings and Mercy,

Pastor Samuel Kwan on behalf of the FBCC COVID-19 Response Team. (updated as of 3/6/20)