

Grace, greetings and prayers from Church Council,

As we continue to move forward in these days First Baptist Church Edmonton (FBC) is taking the following steps to respond to the COVID-19 situation. These steps are intended to support the efforts of people in Edmonton, Alberta, and Canada to reduce the risk of disease and to limit the suffering that occurs because of the spread of illness.

- The Church Council meeting scheduled for March 17 is postponed. The meeting will be rescheduled as soon as possible, but no earlier than April 2020.
- Our FBC Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 19 is postponed, to be rescheduled for a date no earlier than April 2020.
- The Church Office will be open only virtually. This means email messages and phone messages will be returned, but staff will work at home. The church officers may be required to visit the office occasionally to sign cheques and other documents required for the operation of the church. Mail will be received and processed. No date has been set for reopening the office.
- Sunday-morning services on March 22 and 29, 2020, are cancelled. The first date on which Sunday-morning service may resume is April 5, 2020, but no decision has been made.
- All FBC-based events, gatherings, small groups, rehearsals, and rentals are suspended until further notice.

With the Congregation's implicit agreement, FBC continues to use the 2019 budget in March and April 2020, in anticipation of approving the 2020 budget at a congregational meeting as soon as that can be arranged.

Please remember to continue to support FBC's financial needs by making your usual donations. The financial operations of FBC including salaries and other expenditures will continue. You can give to FBC using any of these methods:

- Give online using PayPal, 24/7, at fbcedmonton.ca.
- Complete and send in the Giving Form at fbcedmonton.ca to arrange for regular online giving using a credit card or bank account
- Send a cheque by post

During this period of social retreat, remember to care for one another and for our neighbours. Church Council and Pastoral Staff are available to help arrange for meeting special needs as they are identified.

The News and Notes email update will be circulated. Watch for a sermon audiorecording and "Worship at Home" order of service on or before Sunday, March 22, and Sunday, March 29, to be posted at fbcedmonton.ca.

May the grace and strength of our Lord grant wisdom and comfort to us in these days. We pray for one another, we pray for our neighbours and we look to God as our refuge.

*"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting,
you are God." (Psalm 90:1-2)*

~ Marco Adria, Church Moderator, on behalf of FBC Church Council