

Greetings to the brothers and sisters of FBC Holt!

I hope this letter finds you well and joyful in the Lord. I am writing to inform you as to what the response of FBC ministry will be in light of the corona virus pandemic. As of right now there are more than 145,000 cases worldwide with nearly 5,500 deaths reported. These are relatively miniscule numbers compared to a worldwide population of 7 billion people. The elderly and immuno-compromised are at a higher risk for complications if they contract the virus. To prevent and reduce transmission, large and small gatherings all across the US are cancelling their meetings for the next couple weeks. With that being said, we have decided that the best course of action at FBC Holt is to cancel all services and meetings for the next 2 weeks. Our hope is that this will aid in efforts to prevent further spread of the virus.

There is no need to fear the things we face in this world. We are a people who should know and live in light of the fact our Lord reigns over all and has made many comforting promises to His people. He has promised to never leave or forsake us, to not let anything separate us from His love, to leave us in the midst of a fallen world as ambassadors for His righteousness, grace, and mercy, to cause all things to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes, and to care for us in the midst of anxiety and daily trouble (*Matt. 28:20; Rom. 8:35-39; 2 Cor. 5:20-21; Rom. 8:28; 1 Pet. 5:7*). It is the heart of those who watch over your souls to seek the Lord through this time and follow Him in the ways He will bring about much good and glory to His name during this departure from our normal gatherings. We have already begun to be led in ways to communicate, minister, worship, pray and evangelize that will take place over the next couple weeks. I would like to share with you what we are currently working on and brainstorming for this abnormal pause in our gatherings.

1. Communication

- a. Be sure to pay attention to the church text messages that will direct you to important updates or new sermons and articles.
- b. The deacons will be taking an active role in reaching out to those under their family ministry. Please do not hesitate to let them know your needs or ask any questions you may have. There are many others in the church willing to help their brothers and sisters in any practical or spiritual matters.

2. Ministry

- a. We are working on posting sermons for the upcoming weeks in both video and audio formats.
- b. There will also be blog articles on the website written by fellow members at FBC Holt to nourish your soul.
- c. If you are part of the text line you will receive periodic morning messages directing you to an article, sermon, discussion or passage that the pastor feels would turn your hearts and minds to focus on Jesus.
- d. Pastor Darby is also available as usual.

3. Worship

- a. Some of the articles posted on the website will be directing you to a song that will help you continue to sing to the Lord.

4. Pray

- a. *⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ¹*
- b. Pray for the Lord to use this to call people to repentance across the globe. Pray for the nations and their leaders that they would receive wisdom on how to care for the well-being of their people.
- c. Pray for the well-being of each other. Not just that our health would remain intact, but more importantly that our hearts would grow in love for the Lord and for our neighbor.
- d. Pray for the church all over the world, that her witness and confidence in the Lord would grow and be bold as to point others towards Christ.

5. Evangelize

- a. In times like this the world is watching the church. We proclaim a faith in God who is Sovereign over all things and all people at all times and we trust in Him to bring about good, even when we cannot presently comprehend. Do we live what we believe? Do we remain faithful, hopeful, and ready to help as we are called to? Our joy and faith in the Lord should not remain isolated but burst forth as light in darkness.
- b. Even though we will not find ourselves congregating in a sanctuary, we may find other situations or outdoor meeting areas to be together in open air, singing praises to God, praying, and feasting on His word.

Our hopes are that you would continue to grow in faith, hope and love for God and neighbor. The Lord is sure to accomplish His good purposes in this time as He has for all time. We look forward with faithful anticipation as to how this uncertain and dreary time will be used for the glory of God, the good of His people, and the calling of sinners to repentance and faith. May God richly bless the church with His nearness and peace which surpasses all understanding. Amen.

For the king and the kingdom,
Dakota Darby (Pastor)

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Php 4:6–7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.