

Dear First Church Family,

One of the ministries we support, Agape International Ministries (AIM), recently sent out a letter encouraging the following mindset during these days of the pandemic: **“Worship over Worry.”** The letter states: “We must place worship, and showing God’s love, above all our anxiety and fear.”

I pass that excellent encouragement on to you as we continue to respond as a church to COVID-19 and the ongoing requests of our governing authorities.

During the past few days, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) requested that gatherings be no more than 50 people, and President Trump asked for social gatherings to be no more than 10 people.

Since we love to gather together on the Day our Lord has given us, fellowship together, and raise our voices in praise to our King, these requests are difficult. The requests might even feel wrong. But with love for our neighbors and in obedience to God’s Word (Romans 13:1-7), we need to continue to comply and do all we can to support our leaders.

This week, I saw the following excellent quote from Martin Luther who ministered during the deadly Black Plague.

“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as the result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”

From *Regarding the Black Plague*, by Martin Luther

Here at First Church, we want to live out that kind of God-fearing faith. We will therefore continue to make changes as needed and will seek to be creative in ways we can minister to one another and our community. We give you the following three announcements at this time:

1. **Until further notice, beginning this Sunday, March 22, our worship services will only take place via Livestream. There will be no attendance in our sanctuary.** We hope you will join us and invite others to join us on livestream as well. Consider

texting members a greeting on Sunday morning, just as you could greet them if you were gathering in our sanctuary. Send out a group text to people you normally talk to in the sanctuary. God has been gracious to provide us with technology. Let's continue to enjoy fellowship together unto his glory.

This Sunday night we will still have a time of Questions and Answers. We will do so utilizing cell phones. If you have a question for Pastor Matt (he will be preaching Sunday evening) please text his cell phone (see staff page of directory) your question. If you have a question for Pastor Glenn from the morning service, please text his cell phone (see staff page of directory). We believe this will be a fun way to keep that portion of our Sunday evening service.

2. **We are recommending any Life Group or Bible Study with 10 or more people discontinue meeting until further notice.** If your Life Group is under 10 people, it will be at your discretion if you continue to meet. If you do so, we ask that you use good social distancing practices (6 feet).
3. **The deacons want to help any elderly members of our church,** who are not comfortable or able to go out and buy groceries, by shopping for you and delivering the groceries. Here are the simple directions at this time:
 - Fill out the grocery list of what you need - click [here](#) for list or see below for list
 - Call Mark De Vries (209-810-4233, cell) between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Monday. Mark is the deacon organizing this ministry.
 - He will give you further directions.
 - The groceries will be delivered to your doorstep.

If you are a healthy adult and would like to be part of the ministry, please contact Mark De Vries. The more shoppers we have, the easier this will be.

A text and email will go out Sunday morning with a link to the "Orders of Worship" for both the Sunday morning and evening services so that you can follow along at home. To that email, we will also attach the Prayer Guide.

If you have any questions, or are affected by the coronavirus and need help, please don't hesitate to call a pastor, an elder or the church office.

Building, Serving, and Loving with you,

Pastor Glenn

Name:

Delivery Address:

Instructions: Place a 'X' in the box next to an item that is needed

FYI: There is no guarantee that these items will be available at all times during the Pandemic

Category	Item	X
Produce	Apple	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bananna	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tomato	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Onion	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Potatoe	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grain	Rice	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pasta	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bread	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cracker	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cereal	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Granola Bar	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tortilla	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pantry	Frozen Veggies	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Canned Vegetable	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Canned Bean	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Soup	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Broth	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pasta Sauce	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinks	Coffee	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tea	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Juice	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meat	Ground Beef/Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lunch Meat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dairy	Milk	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Egg	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cream	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Yogurt	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/>