



**EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH • MID AMERICA**

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## **COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE: MARCH 19, 2020**

*“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.”*  
- Philippians 4:6-7

May God’s peace guard your mind from worry and your heart from fear as we continue to walk through days of uncertainty. May we be people of faith, rather than people of fear.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to unfold, the leadership of EFC-MAYM is staying alert to what is happening around us and will be periodically making suggestions for action.

The [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) is now recommending that all public gatherings of 50 people or more choose not to meet for the foreseeable future. The [federal government](#) has gone one step further and has requested that Americans avoid groups of 10 or more people. Therefore, we are taking the following steps and making the following recommendations:

1. The EFC-MAYM office will remain open M-F from 9am-1pm for now. However, if you have a need to visit the office, please contact Jenna Schmidt first to make the necessary arrangements (316-267-0391). If you need to contact one of our superintendents, you may do so by email or on their cell phones, as they will be working from their home offices. Contact information is provided below. (Local churches may want to follow a similar pattern.)
2. All EFC-MAYM sponsored events through the end of March have been cancelled or postponed. A decision regarding April events will be made by March 31.
3. Churches are encouraged to support the recommendations of our governing officials, and refrain from meeting for larger corporate gatherings until further notice. A growing number of our churches now live stream or post their messages online. If your church offers this service, please let us know so that we can make that information available to the wider community.
4. Church leaders should make plans as to how people can continue to send in their tithes and offerings during this period of restricted on site activity. Online giving options are available, or they can be mailed to the church office (or dropped off). Each leadership team should discuss and communicate the option(s) that fits best in their setting.
5. Finally, and most importantly, as the people of God we must resist the temptation to operate in a mode of self-protection. Instead, we should prayerfully identify meaningful ways to serve our local communities and bring honor to Jesus (cf. Mk 10:45). This is not a time for the church to retreat, but to advance with Christ-like courage, compassion and creativity.

As much as possible, we do encourage our churches to follow the [recommended guidelines](#) in the latest announcements from the federal government, as well as any local guidelines, bans and restrictions, making every effort to walk “in favor with both God and man” (cf. Lk 2:52; Ac 24:16).

As followers of Jesus let’s do what we do best in times like these, pray, and shine brightly in the darkness by sacrificially loving people on behalf of Jesus!

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