



EVANGELICAL FRIENDS CHURCH • MID AMERICA

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COVID-19 UPDATE FOR PRESIDING CLERKS: APRIL 2, 2020

Good Morning Friends. I trust you are all safe, and walking through this pandemic with Jesus, a day at a time. Just a reminder, again, that the Ministry Center is closed for walk-in traffic. All of us are working remotely for the foreseeable future, but should be able to be reached by email or tphone, as needed.

With all of the information coming your way these days related to COVID-19, it is not my intent to overwhelm you with additional information, but to simply share with you a few items that may be helpful to you as you work with your pastor to provide leadership to your local church:

1. Pastoral Care is an essential, but difficult ministry during a pandemic. Fortunately, through telephone calls, texting, online video communication, and live streaming there is a variety of opportunities available to you in order to keep in touch with those who are a part of your church. We encourage each church to develop a strategy to communicate with each member of your congregation every 1-2 weeks to check-in, solicit prayer needs, as well as simply provide a listening ear of loving support.
2. The CARES Act has a few provisions which can be taken advantage of by churches under the 501c3 umbrella. Here are two links you may want to check out in order to get up to speed on those opportunities. One is from [Christianity Today](#) and the other is from [EFCA](#). **The primary opportunity is the Payroll Protection Program where small businesses and non-profits can apply for "forgiveable" loans to cover up to 8 weeks of payroll costs**, if revenue has been impacted by COVID-19. You must apply through a local bank which is an SBA lender, and the application process is supposed to open tomorrow, April 3. Demand is expected to be quite high, so if this is something you would like to take advantage of you will want to work with your pastor and Stewards Team to file an application as soon as possible.
3. Once again, here is a link to our churches that are doing live streaming of their [worship services](#), if you want to share this with your congregation. If you need help setting up live streaming for your local congregation, please contact me and I will put you in touch with someone who can assist you with that effort.

Blessings to each of you and thank you so much for working with your pastor and leadership team to provide excellent leadership during these days.

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

So we will not fear when earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.

Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

'Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world.'

The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress."

- Psalm 46:1-3,10-11

- Thayne A. Thompson, DMin, Executive Superintendent (Cell: 316-650-6958)