Dear CF family,

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3: 5-6*

These are uncertain and troubling days. We encourage you to put your trust and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ as well as find refuge, love, care and support from the people of this “little outpost of the kingdom” – Community Fellowship.

With all the happenings of this past week it is necessary for the elders to provide an update about our response to the growing pandemic. We provide this update after much prayer and in consultation with reliable internal and external information. The environment that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created is complex and dynamic. It requires us to be attentive and nimble as we discern and make decisions. We assure you that we are monitoring information every day and will modify and make changes to decisions as needed.

We acknowledge that our decision about gathering together on Sunday may be different than other places in our community. We pray for God’s wisdom in everything we do at CF and also trust that our gospel witness will bring glory to God. In the midst of this crisis, we encourage you to be prayerful, vigilant, discerning, supportive and faithful.

As of today, Friday, March 13 Community Fellowship intends to continue offering Sunday services for members and guests. Until you hear otherwise, our doors will be open for 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on Sunday. This Sunday Pastor Will plans to step away for one week from the God’s Heart... sermon series. He will preach a message that will help us reflect biblically on the current pandemic and our response. We encourage you to attend our Sunday worship celebrations. But if for some reason you can’t, we understand. Please take time to listen to the sermon online next week – [commfell.org](http://www.commfell.org).

The health, safety and well-being of our members and guests is a top priority. We offer these precautionary guidelines about attendance at any and all CF activity until further notice.

Some of you, especially those categorized as higher risk, may be wise to limit social interaction. We fully understand if it is prudent for you to stay at home during these next weeks. High-risk includes but may not be limited to the following:

* Older Adults (those over 60 have increased risk, and those over 80 are high risk)
* Anyone who has a chronic medical condition such as:
  + Heart disease
  + Diabetes
  + Lung disease
* Anyone who has a compromised immune system.

Though you may need to choose not to attend our services, please know that we still want to care for you as a member of our body. If there is any way that we can serve you, let us know.

Also, if you or someone in your family has been sick in the past 72 hours with symptoms including sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, fever of 100+ OR if you have traveled from restricted travel locations in the past 14 days, we request that out for love and respect for your brothers and sisters at CF you not attend services or other activity until those conditions have passed.

Please stay in touch by regularly checking emails, the Friday Briefing, the CF website and social media pages. Also feel free to contact the CF office or an elder at any time for updated information, to let us know of any personal needs and to communicate concerns, questions and ideas that might be helpful as we navigate this situation. The elders hope to follow up with all ministry partners in the upcoming days. Thank you for your support, prayers and cooperation.

As we attempt to ensure that members and attendees in our community are safe, we will continue to do the following and will provide updates as needed about our services and other activities. We also ask for your help in these areas.

* We will be prayerful with and for each other. Let us know how we can pray for you.
* We will trust God to help us live by faith and not in fear.
* We will continue to closely monitor the situation taking into consideration the guidance from IL State, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), local public health and medical professionals (including three doctor’s that are part of our own membership), as well as other churches.
* We will maintain our cleaning routines to ensure that the facility is clean and sanitized.
* We will provide hand sanitizers, soap and paper towels in our restrooms and common areas. We encourage that all attendees regularly wash their hands and use hand sanitizer while in the building.
* When we gather, we encourage appropriate social interaction -- but we discourage personal contact, including shaking hands. Share love but not germs!
* Until further notice, we will not provide coffee and refreshments on Sunday morning. Feel free to bring your own coffee.
* We will take special precautions to assure safety of the children – including washing hands, elimination of ‘touch’ except under specific conditions, sanitized classrooms.

In closing be assured of this promise from Romans 8: 37-38:

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Partnering together for the sake of the gospel.

CF Elders