



Dear FBC Thomson Family,

In the past few days, our medical experts have communicated a consensus that we can no longer ignore. Part of being good stewards and looking out for the needs of others requires us to practice extreme social distancing. Following the guidelines of the CDC, President Trump, Governor Kemp, and the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, **we will be pursuing digital expressions of worship and ministry for at least the rest of March.** Yes, it is inconvenient. Yes, it is a little scary. But if we care about our neighbors as Jesus teaches us, it is a small price to pay for their protection.

Of course, this means we must pursue creative ways to stay connected as a church family and stay on mission for the Kingdom of God. We promise to keep you up to date with everything we are offering and any and all upcoming cancellations, postponements, and changes. We understand that these are stressful and uncertain times in our country and around the world. We also know that God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7), that God is with us through every unforeseen situation we face (Ps. 23), and that we can have peace in the days ahead if we bring our concerns to Jesus (Phil. 4:6-7).

As of this moment, all physical meetings are being canceled and replaced with Zoom teleconference meetings, Facebook Live videos, online resources, phone calls, and emails. The church building will be closed for the remainder of March, though the office will continue to be staffed from 9 AM to 5 PM. Please handle as much business with the church via phone calls and emails. If you must visit the office, please call when you arrive, and someone will let you inside. The indoor workout equipment, gym, and walking track are also closed, but we invite you to use the outdoor walking track and field to get some fresh air and exercise. We are not locking down the playground at this time, but we are also not making efforts to sanitize it. Therefore, use it at your discretion.

To help us stay connected as a church family over the next few weeks, we are launching something called **"Faith@Home: Connect."** The idea is to use a variety of online tools and platforms to help us all continue to BE the church as we love God, love people, and make disciples for Jesus from all generations. Because we believe that spiritual health is more important than physical health, we want to continue to be a people who Come to Worship, Grow in Groups, Serve in Love, and Go and Tell. But now we are being forced to think outside the box about how we do these things together-yet-apart.

We love you; we are praying for you; we are here for you. We may not be able to gather as the church as is our habit, but we can BE the church in new and exciting ways. And we can still gather online, over the phone, as families, and in our giving and praying.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. David Lambert

Dr. Matt Ward

Rev. Ben Tarver