**RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOURCES FOR GROUPS AT FPC**

With a desire to love our neighbors as ourselves and an abundance of caution for the members

of our church and community amidst a global pandemic that is affecting our city, as of Sunday,

March 22, all FPC worship gatherings will be moved online until further notice.

In addition, the FPC campus will remain open for staff members, and members from the church and community who feel the need to drop in to pray. The church will be open from 9am – 5pm M-F. We do ask people to maintain a safe social distance. The staff will be available to provide instructions and remind everyone to sanitize the pew they used and to wash or sanitize their hands.

So what does this mean for various groups in our church who are used to gathering together in

person on a regular basis? We have many different types and sizes of groups across our church

family, and this document applies to all of those types and sizes – basically, to any group of

church members who normally gather together to care for one another, grow as disciples, sing, prepare for worship, or make disciples. The following includes recommendations as well as resources for such groups and their leaders. We will continually update this document with new information as the situation surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) develops.

**WHAT IS FPC RECOMMENDING FOR GROUPS AT THIS TIME?**

Our over-arching recommendation for groups is to work hard to keep the members of your

group as biblically (see Romans 12:9-13) and closely connected to one another as is wisely

possible.

The obvious question this statement raises is, “What is wise?” We have already stated that we do not believe it is wise for the members of our church to gather for worship as we normally do because of the risks involved with potentially exposing many people to this different and distinct virus.

As for the meeting of small groups, even though our governor recommends groups of 25 and over not to meet, since we have no idea how many people are infected we advise all groups to suspend meeting physically for the next two weeks. You can meet in alternative ways. We are not shutting groups down simple asking them to meet in different ways. We want to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Many of your neighbors may be feeling a bit anxious about the crisis we are in as a nation. This may be a huge opportunity to reach out to your neighbor and offer creative ways to connect to each other, and serve them in ways they need. We’ve created a flyer for you to use to help you connect to your neighbor in safely while also opening an opportunity for you to show the love of Jesus in tangible ways.

Make sure you let your neighbor know that we are offering worship and the message online. Also let them know the doors of the church remain open for all those who desire to pray or who need a word of encouragement. The church office will remain open from 9am – 5pm, M-F. If they need prayer or help they can also contact the church office (541-884-7781)

**Though we encourage groups to not meet physically we do encourage groups to consider alternate means for keeping your group connected to one another during a time where meeting physically together may not be wise.** One alternate means we recommend is gathering your group together online. At the end of this document contains a list of online tools you can use for such gatherings. You can pray together, study God’s Word together, and encourage one another online with any of these tools.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOURCES FOR GROUPS**

In addition, we recommend that you go out of your way to cultivate personal contact with

each other. Make phone calls to members of your group, text frequently (either individually or

in group texts), email encouragement, or use other social media channels like WhatsApp or

Facebook (both of which have functionality for groups) to stay connected.

By God’s common grace, our contemporary world is filled with ways to connect with one another remotely. To be sure, nothing can ultimately replace the value of being together in person, but during this unique time, we want to steward wisely these alternate means that God has made available to us.

**CAN (OR SHOULD) GROUPS STILL GATHER TOGETHER INPERSON?**

We believe it is wise and loving to limit in person gatherings during this time. However, we realize that some groups (or portions of groups) may choose to still gather together in person. **We do not advise meeting but we recognize the fact we can’t stop it.**

There are obviously good and biblical reasons behind such gatherings (see Hebrews 10:24-25) that some groups may believe warrant coming together in person. Nevertheless, for any such in-person gatherings, we strongly recommend the following precautions for the good not only of the people who are gathering, but of all the people you will interact with after your gathering.

* Meet in groups of 10 and under.

• Do not attend if you are sick, experiencing any symptoms of the coronavirus (COVID-19), or if you have been exposed to someone with the coronavirus (COVID-19).

• Fully disinfect all surfaces before and after your gathering.

• Wash your hands with soap and water (for at least 20 seconds) upon arrival at the gathering and upon returning to your home.

• Either wash hands or make use of hand sanitizer as appropriate during the gathering.

• Avoid hand-shaking and hugging, opting instead for gestures like elbow bumping that avoid skin-to-skin contact.

• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

• Cover any cough or sneeze.

• Serve any food or drink individually.

• Maintain appropriate distance between members of different households and their belongings. It is possible that some members of a group may feel comfortable gathering in person while other members of a group not feel comfortable gathering in person. We encourage group leaders to be understanding and supportive of each person’s conscience, and to find appropriate or helpful ways to include members of a group who are not present physically (online, by phone, or through other means).

**WHAT ABOUT GATHERING TOGETHER TO CARE FOR PEOPLE IN NEED ACROSS OUR TOWN DURING THIS TIME?**

We’re glad you asked! While it is wise and strongly recommended for certain members of our church who are elderly or have existing medical conditions to limit interaction in social settings during this time, it is wise and strongly recommended for other members of our church to be actively involved in spreading God’s love to people in need during this time. Our church members are currently brainstorming and starting to set up avenues to care for members of our church and community who need assistance during this time, and we encourage all groups and group members who can wisely be involved in such activities to do so.

More information about these avenues for care can be found in the coming days at klamathfpc.com. In particular open and read the communication labeled: “Outreach.”

**WHAT RESOURCES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR GROUPS TO USE DURING THIS TIME?**

Until Easter we recommend that you continue to follow the SOMA series. The study guides can be found on the church website. First listen to the sermon. It will be livestreamed on this Sunday, March 22nd at 9am. We will update you on the service times after the 22nd. Then go through the study guide and use the questions to unpack the text and topic.

If you do not have internet but have a TV set with cable channels, find the religious channels and utilize the messages offered for your spiritual nurture. We’d also encourage you to read through a Gospel or, with all the time on our hands, all the Gospels. This will be great preparation for being “the Body of Christ” and for the upcoming continuation of the series on the Gospel of John.

**HOW LONG WILL ALL OF THIS LAST?**

As church leaders carefully monitor this situation, we are continually evaluating the above recommendations. We look forward to the day when we can resume our life together as a church through in-person gatherings. As the situation surrounding the coronavirus(COVID-19) develops, mcleanbible.org will be the primary place for you to receive the most up-to-date information. Our aim in all we are doing is to glorify God by loving and caring for our church family and surrounding community during this unique time.

**WHAT SHOULD GROUP LEADERS DO FIRST?**

We encourage group leaders to start by putting together a plan (even if that plan is only for the next week, and will be updated for following weeks) for how your group will stay closely connected with each other. Then, share that plan with your entire group, and create a clear avenue of communication with you and with each other. This might be over a group email, a group text, or another platform. Try to include in your communication any specific details you have about when and how your group will next meet together. If that meeting will be online (which is likely the case), include instructions for how members can participate.

Currently we have asked the parish leaders to reach out and contact the people in their parish to set up a phone tree or some method of staying connected to those in their parish. You will be receiving a call or email this week to let you know about the decisions the leadership have made concerning our response to the current crisis and how to access information and resources to help you through this season, stay connected to your church, and serve our community.

**WHAT TOOLS CAN GROUPS USE FOR GATHERING ONLINE?**

Many tools exist for gathering people together online, and we encourage groups to choose whichever application works best for them. The following is a list of free video conferencing products that we have tested and recommend. This may be overkill but I tried to find as many free services as possible:

**JITSI (It does not work in the Safari web browser.)**

1. Using the Chrome web browser, go to https://meet.jit.si/

2. Type in the name of your meeting.

3. Hit “Go.”

4. Now that you’re in the meeting you can control your mic and camera

5. Click and then to copy the link to your meeting.

Now you can share the link via text or email the link to your group participants. Jitsi also has a mobile app that can be downloaded when the link is clicked on a mobile device.

If you are having trouble using this platform, please visit Jitsi Support at https://jitsi.org/user-faq/

**FACETIME (Recommended only if all group members have Apple devices)**

1. FaceTime will allow for multiple participants, not just a one on one call

2. After initiating a FaceTime call from your iPhone or iPad:

• Pull up the Options Bar

• Touch Add Person and search for the individuals to add to the call

• Then touch “Add Person to FaceTime.”

3. After initiating a FaceTime call from a Mac

• Click , and then click “Add Person.”

• Search for the individuals to add to the call

• Then click “Add.”

4. If you are having trouble using this platform, please visit the FaceTime support page at: https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT209022

**FACEBOOK MESSENGER**

You can video chat with just one person, or with a group of people. Keep in mind, placing calls through the Messenger app for iPhone, iPad or Android may use your existing data plan.Please contact your mobile operator if you have questions about data charges for calling.

**Android, iPhone and iPad (video chat with one person):**

1. From Chats, open a conversation for the person with whom you want to video chat.

2. Tap Android, iPhone and iPad (video chat with a group):

From Chats, open a group conversation for the people with whom you want to video

chat.

3. Tap .

**Windows**

1. Open the conversation for the person or group with whom you want to video chat.

2. Click .

3. To end a video call, tap .

4. If you are having issues using this platform, please visit the Facebook Messenger support

page at: https://bit.ly/33j1UBY

**ZOOM**

1. For instructions to use Zoom, please visit: [https://bit.ly/2U6wpHd](about:blank)

2. Zoom does require a free account to use.

3. Note that Zoom only offers free video conferencing up to 40 minutes for any given meeting.

4. Zoom also requires you to download and install the Zoom client which can be found here:

https://zoom.us/support/download

5. For comprehensive Help Articles and Videos please visit: https://support.zoom.us/hc/

en-us/categories/200101697

**SKYPE**

1. For detailed instructions, visit: https://www.skype.com/en/free-conference-call/

2. Does not require any download or client.

3. Works through a web browser.

**GOOGLE HANGOUTS**

1. Requires a Google account.

2. Will work on a web browser or through Android/iOS clients.

3. For detailed instructions please visit: [https://bit.ly/3d1dndS](about:blank)

After trying one or more of these tools, if group leaders have questions or complications

surrounding their use, please make sure to visit their respective support pages outlined above.

Most of these tools have online “How To” videos as well as specific answers to commonly

asked questions.