

North Central Church of Christ  
COVID-19 Update: March 13, 2020

Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.  
1 Peter 2:17 NIV

“This is a time when we must do all we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19, protect our most vulnerable populations and reduce their potential to acquire or spread this virus.... While some actions are drastic, now, not later, is the time to act.” Governor Eric Holcomb.

We communicated with you recently regarding precautionary measures being taken at North Central due to growing concerns about the spread of the coronavirus in our area. Since then, local schools have closed and the State of Indiana has issued guidelines limiting non-essential gatherings of 250 people or more.

Based upon these developments the North Central leadership believes it is appropriate to cancel the congregation’s activities and programming for the week of March 15th, including Sunday worship and our Wednesday gathering. This decision is not based on fear, but rather a desire to respect our governing authorities and to promote good health and safety measures. Steve Kenney has a [video message](#) posted online that will provide additional perspective on our thinking. Please note that, during this time, our ministry staff will be available to you as the church office will remain open.

The Elders and Staff will be working during this week to consider options for the remainder of the time the Indiana precautions are in force. This is obviously a fluid situation and all options, including subsequent cancellations of all activities, will be considered. We covet your thoughts and prayer during this period of uncertainty. Please send comments or concerns directly to [covid@nccoc.org](mailto:covid@nccoc.org).

So while this uncertainty produces challenges, it also affords us opportunity. During times of uncertainty, we expect many will be inclined to turn to people of faith for assurance, understanding, and possibly assistance. We also need to reimagine ways in which we can deliver needed spiritual or physical sustenance to those of our body at greatest risk or need. Our weekly gathering may be curtailed for a short while, but our scattering is always for a purpose. The time has never been more appropriate for ***you to be the church***.

With this in mind, we offer the following suggestions:

- Be attentive to the opportunities to pray and serve those around you, and use this time to offer hope.
- Creatively consider how you might use this time with your own family. Many of you have the *YouVersion* Bible app which has a number of reading plans, including family devotional plans such as “Loves Does for Kids.” “Rest” is the Lenten theme this week. Read and discuss together the daily devotions or Psalm 131.
- Continue supporting the ministry of the church financially, knowing that donations ([online](#) and those mailed) in the next few weeks will be earmarked for providing assistance to those in our community who are financially challenged by this health crisis due to limited resources.
- Look for email blasts or info on our Facebook Page indicating new ways in which we might broadcast messages from the pulpit, our shepherds and others

The North Central shepherds and ministry staff would like to hear from you, particularly with any need or opportunity that might arise during the next couple of weeks. But above all, let's leverage this moment for the church to bring assurance and hope to a world filled with fear. It's time for the church to be the church.