



FGMB & COVID-19 Update: March 13, 2020

Dear FGMB family,

This is a difficult message to communicate. After careful consideration of recent information from the Manitoba Office of Public Health, along with conducting a COVID-19 Risk Assessment from Canada Health for Mass Gatherings, FGMB Staff and Council Executive have made the decision to cancel Sunday Morning Church services starting this Sunday, March 15th. We will evaluate conducting future church services based on Government Health recommendations.

In light of the current context of how officials have recommended that we act to “flatten the curve” for the transmission of the virus, we feel that this is the best way to care for all of you and for our broader community as well. We did not make this decision lightly.

Today Manitoba Public Health strongly recommended that gatherings larger than 250 people be cancelled. They continue to advocate for minimal contact with others for less than 10 minutes in close proximity of less than 2 meters. They also recommend that those with underlying medical conditions and those of us who are in the senior population limit crowded places and events. The Canadian Government has stated that events where activities such as singing, cheering, close physical contact or where sharing of food and drink is done should be considered high risk for the transmission of the virus. Our Sunday Morning Church Service falls into all of these higher-risk categories.

We would ask that all ministries and meeting groups (such as life groups and bible study groups) carefully evaluate your risk factors in deciding whether to meet or not. Based on risk factors, Youth and Club groups will continue to meet. There are helpful resources to use here: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Awareness resources](#)

We want to continue to be able to care for you during this time. The church office will continue to be open Tuesday - Friday 9am to 5pm. We are praying that God will be at work in the lives of those affected, for the healthcare workers and in each of your lives too.

We have created a YouTube channel where you can be encouraged and view a mini church service with a sermon, scripture reading, and a worship playlist. This Sunday, Janessa Nayler-Giesbrecht will preach on the topic “Anointing the Anointed One”. The sermon will be available Sunday here on our [YouTube channel](#), as well as on our website [fgmb.ca](#).

We will continue to provide you with updates as we receive new information. In the meantime, Psalm 138 says we give thanks to His name for His steadfast love and faithfulness. On the day we call on Him He answers us, He increases our strength of soul. May we all be strengthened

as we turn our eyes toward Jesus in this difficult time. We are a body of believers with Christ at the head of the church. Be reminded that God is in control. Be encouraged to remain calm, be courageous, wise, and always be ready to do good in our city and world.

In Christ,
FGMB Staff and Council Executives