

Out of love for our community and as a public witness we will be moving worship online for the next two weeks as we assess our best response to COVID 19. This Sunday go to [www.RiversideChurch.com](http://www.RiversideChurch.com) and click "join us for worship" at 9:45 AM.

- Why are we moving worship online
- Canceling all large gatherings March 12<sup>th</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup>
- What about those who count on free and reduced lunch at Sugarland Elementary School
- Ridgetop Tea and Coffee remains open but with changes
- What can you do

**Why are we moving worship online?** The primary reason is love for our neighbors, Matthew 22:39 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." We believe Loudoun County Public Schools canceling classes and the requests from community leaders for groups to cancel large gatherings is a proactive step rather than a reactive step. It is not fear but a move in the hope to "flatten the curve" of the trajectory of the virus to assure that those who do get sick will be able to get the medical attention they need. We want to be witnesses to a nervous community that we understand their fears. We also need to be honest with our neighbors and admit that we have fears to, but we also have faith in the one who is our only comfort in life and in death, Jesus Christ. The decision to not hold live worship right now is the right thing to do during this time of uncertainty. Our missing a time of seeing one another face to face is one visible sign of our mission to Impact our community with the love of God in Jesus. We can go online to [www.RiversideChurch.com](http://www.RiversideChurch.com) for hopefully just a few Sundays for the sake of our neighbor's health and anxiety.

**We are canceling all large gatherings March 12<sup>th</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup>?** We are not going to be hosting worship live but will have it available via a link on the front page of our website, [www.Riversidechurch.com](http://www.Riversidechurch.com) and we will be live streaming at 9:45 AM. This Sunday Pastor Brian's sermon will be "Facing Fear." We are also canceling, Youth Group, Sunday School, and any group that is the size needed for our sanctuary. We will assess this situation daily as this is an ever developing and changing situation and we will do our best to keep you posted to any new developments.

**What about those who count on free and reduced lunch at Sugarland Elementary School with the schools now suddenly closed?** This week Loudoun County will be providing "to go" breakfast and lunch for those who depend on those meals. We will continue to pack back packs that will be picked up on Thursday to cover the weekend. You can make a donation to Feed-a-student <https://riversidechurch.com/give/> and starting next week we will work with the school to supplement the weekend back packs.

**Ridgetop Coffee and Tea remain open but with some changes.** Ridgetop Coffee and Tea will remain open as people can have social distancing if desired or get their food to go. We will continue to follow County and CDC guidance as far as if we close for a time. We believe Ridgetop Coffee and Tea can be a place people can visit for comfort, encouragement, and hope. We have made a few changes, closing the children's play area, using all "to go" containers, extra cleanings, and we are retraining all staff on best practices and the strictest health and safety practices.

**What can you do?** First and foremost, resist fear. Join us online this Sunday to hear more about that, but know that fear and worry are real but neither need to dominate. Here are some other things you can do:

- Have someone call you when you feel worry or fear are winning. Email [brian@riversidechurch.com](mailto:brian@riversidechurch.com) with the best number to call and one of the staff or an elder will be calling you that day.
- Join the zoom conversations and time of prayer this week:
  - i. Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10AM and 8PM – Pastor Edwin and Pastor Brian will be discussing Spiritual Practices when times are tough
  - ii. Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM and 8 PM Daniel Eagan will be talking about Anxiety
  - iii. Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM and 8 PM Pastor Brian and some elders will be talking about the Peace of God that surpasses understanding.
- Deepen your spiritual practices so that you can be a help and comfort to others. Join Pastors Brian and Edwin Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM or 8 PM for a zoom teaching and discussion on Spiritual Practices in times of fear.
- Check in on those you already know are in need.
- Make a donation online to Feed-a-student <https://riversidechurch.com/give/> to help us supplement the weekly back packs that will be distributed each Thursday.
- Be available to pick up groceries and essentials for people needing help.
- Donate to the “Family Fund” to help those in the Riverside Family who work in the service industry and are experiencing a temporary work stoppage <https://riversidechurch.com/give/>
- Pray for people and ask for prayer for yourself by emailing [Edwin@riversidechurch.com](mailto:Edwin@riversidechurch.com)