



Our Mission Is To Follow Christ and Share His Word

March 12, 2020

Dear First Pres Family,

As the realities of Coronavirus (COVID-19) continue to be made known, we are attempting to make decisions for our congregation – and larger community – that are people-focused and ensure the safety and well-being of those who come in and out of our doors. By the time you read this there may be several more pieces of information that have become available but, for now, we have made some decisions that affect the next few days.

The most important decision is that we will not be having services this weekend. We are following the recommendations of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and Mesa County Public Health Department (<https://health.mesacounty.us/covid19>) and taking their most substantial suggested steps to ensure that we join others in our community and region in “flattening the curve” of the virus’ spread. Compromising even one person is something that we want to help avoid. Future decisions will be made on a week-by-week basis and we have already made other decisions about worship practices to minimize contact once we resume services.

What can we do?

We can personally and corporately maintain a virus-free environment by following the recommended hygiene practices (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>). If you are sick, we encourage you to stay home but stay connected with us online (sermons will be recorded and then posted online at www.firstpresgj.org). We will do our best to have our facility (and keep our facility) as germ-free as possible, but each person can do their part as well (CDC and WHO-World Health Organization).

Finally, there is a difference between wisdom and fear. Wisdom requires the humility to admit others know more than we do. Wisdom helps us make decisions for a larger group of people – even those outside the walls of our church we will never meet. Wisdom blesses others. Fear ignores the fact that God is sovereign. Fear only pays attention to sound bites and not facts. And fear robs us of joy. This decision, in my opinion, is connected to wisdom and not fear.

Faithfully yours,