

Hello Calvary friends,

Calvary UMC has been closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19 following the guidance of our local health department and the North Dakota Department of Health. The current statistics show that if 1 sick person interacts with 5 others, after 15 further associations 2 million people will be touched. While we trust the Lord with our lives and our future, we know that “loving our neighbor as ourselves” means prioritizing the health and safety of our visitors, congregation, and community by limiting face-to-face contact as much as possible.

We will continue to adjust our churchwide response to COVID-19 on a weekly basis, but here are the pertinent steps we are taking to serve our congregation and our city this week:

- From March 18-29, we are canceling all “live” activities (including Sunday worship, ministry meetings, small groups, and youth and children’s ministries) with the exception of the Tuesday and Saturday prayer meetings, which will continue in adherence with social distancing guidelines. Also, the YMCA childcare is functioning in “snow day mode,” which means all citywide childcare will run off five locations (the Calvary site is one of the centers remaining open, with extreme precautions being taken for health and safety). Our foyer is also functioning as a meeting place for YMCA staff lacking administrative space.
- On March 22 and 29 we will livestream our worship service via Facebook at 10:30 a.m. Please join us from home but do not come to the church these mornings, thank you! (See livestream helps below.) *Also, please remember the Al Whittinghill weekend and men’s retreat are canceled, as is the District Youth Conference in Jamestown and the African meal on March 22.*
- From March 23-27, Pastor Dave will lead us through daily Bible study via Facebook and/or the Calvary YouTube channel. We are encouraging everyone to join us in this online study as we suspend regular adult discipleship small groups.
- Starting March 24, Calvary will institute 10-person shepherding/care groups. Although we are pushing pause on “regular” ministry, this is a great opportunity to care for each other in more intentional ways! Would you be willing to shepherd others at this time? Care group leaders will be making individual contact with members of their circle once a week via text, call, notes, or visits (as appropriate). Contact Pastor Dave ([dave@calvaryfargo.com](mailto:dave@calvaryfargo.com)) if you would like to shepherd a temporary care group. Also note, if you are hospitalized and need pastoral care, please call the Calvary office at 701-232-5650. If you have an unexpected need that our congregation can assist with, Addy Erickson ([addy@calvaryfargo.com](mailto:addy@calvaryfargo.com)) is available to coordinate volunteer response.
- Finally, please prayerfully uphold our church in your giving during this time. Online giving is available at [calvaryfargo.com/giving](http://calvaryfargo.com/giving) or via text at 701-353-0690. Offerings can also be mailed in to Calvary UMC, 4575 45 St. South, Fargo 58104. Wouldn’t it be an amazing testimony of faith if our congregational giving INCREASED during this unique hour of history?

The steps we are now taking at Calvary will be hard for many of us because the high value we place on community. Yet we believe this decision is a responsible display of compassion and a call to minister to each other in other unique ways. Let’s continue to pray for our nation, uphold our neighbors, and trust Christ in His promise:

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Trusting Jesus,  
Pastor Dave, the Calvary Staff, and the Calvary Leadership Council

### **How to be part of the March 22 & 29 Livestreams**

1. Go to [facebook.com/CalvaryFargo](https://facebook.com/CalvaryFargo). If you have a Facebook account, you can log in. If not, just click “not now” under the green “Create New Account” prompt.
2. Scroll down the page to “posts” or until you see a prompt that says “Calvary United Methodist Church is live.” Click on the video and it will begin to stream. After the livestream is recorded, you can also watch it later as it will remain posted on the Calvary Fargo page.
3. If you are a Facebook subscriber and you have already “Liked” or “Followed” the Calvary page ([facebook.com/CalvaryFargo](https://facebook.com/CalvaryFargo)), you should receive a notification on your phone or device when Calvary goes live.
4. When you are watching the livestream, you can weigh in with comments and others viewing can see your feedback in real time. You can also invite friends to watch the same stream or share it with them.
5. Sermon notes will be available at <https://calvaryfargo.com/resources/bulletins/>

### **How to be part of the March 22-27 online study (recorded in advance, NOT LIVE)**

1. Go to [facebook.com/CalvaryFargo](https://facebook.com/CalvaryFargo).
2. Scroll down the page to “posts” and look for Pastor Dave’s daily video.
3. Use the reflection questions in the Facebook comments for your own journaling, family discussion etc. Or make a phone or Facetime date with a friend and talk through these questions each day!
4. Bible study videos and reflection questions will also be available on the Calvary YouTube page ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJipESaj32nsTcVAjr7skZw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJipESaj32nsTcVAjr7skZw?view_as=subscriber)).

P.S. Did you know that Calvary is blessed with TWO parish nurses who are also medical professionals? If you have health-related questions please contact Karen Fleming ([flemingfgo@cableone.net](mailto:flemingfgo@cableone.net)) or Meghan Dockter ([megdock2010@hotmail.com](mailto:megdock2010@hotmail.com)). Remember, if you have any flu-like symptoms, it is important that you call your personal healthcare provider before visiting any clinic or hospital.