

# ECC's Response to COVID-19 Precautions

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## March 20 Update

Dear Church Family,

I am writing with an update related to activities at ECC. No doubt many of you watched our livestreamed worship service on Sunday. Please spread the word that we will be live again this Sunday at 10:00. This Sunday we will move our "broadcast" to the sanctuary so that it feels more like we are all together in a familiar space for worship. If you are not able to [watch the broadcast live](#), we will have a recording following the service that will be posted on our [YouTube channel](#).

Next week we will add several new features to keep us connected. First, there will be a live broadcast of a devotional moment at noon every weekday on our [YouTube channel](#). This will include Scripture reflection, song and prayer. We have received many prayer requests from you and we are taking those seriously. Second, we are planning to post a [devotional reading](#) on our website each day for those who would like to read it. These devotionals will be written by the ECC staff, elders and others who have been asked to be part of this project.

As you may be aware we are attempting to stay in contact with the entire congregation by dividing up our church directory into groups of names. No doubt many of you have received an email or phone call from an elder, deacon or member of the church staff. Hopefully this will be an encouraging point of contact with the church leadership. Please let us know if you have particular needs and we will do our best to assist. If you have not yet been contacted and would like us to keep in touch in this way, let us know.

Finally, I want to remind you that online giving is available to all of you who visit our website. In the past many of you have given generously through our regular offertory during the worship services. Since this option is no longer available please remember that you can still send checks in the mail or give online. To give online, simply go to [eccbloomington.org](http://eccbloomington.org) and click on the "Giving" tab. A PayPal account is not required; you will also see the option to give with your debit or credit card. Online gifts are the most effective way to ensure that your gift is promptly available to ECC in these present circumstances.

Thank you for staying in touch with us because our staff is still working to provide any resources that you need. We are living through difficult and unprecedented circumstances but the body of Christ is doing what it has done for centuries – studying the Scriptures, praying, worshipping and encouraging one another to love and good deeds.

***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*** (Colossians 3:16-17)

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob

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## March 15<sup>th</sup> Update

In-person worship on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. Please join us online instead for a livestream at 10:00am, which can be found on our website ([eccbloomington.org](http://eccbloomington.org)), YouTube ([eccbloomington](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)), or Facebook ([@eccbloomington](https://www.facebook.com/eccbloomington)).

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## March 13<sup>th</sup> Update

Greetings folks,

Considering the fast-paced developments in our health crisis we have decided to cancel our worship service this Sunday morning. We will have a virtual option for all of you who go to our website at [eccbloomington.org](http://eccbloomington.org) at 10:00am on Sunday. Please take time to do this because we would like to provide more information related to our decisions. The Board of Elders will be meeting to discuss next steps. We appreciate your patience, pray for your safety and wish you God's blessings.

Grace and peace,

Bob

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## March 12<sup>th</sup> Letter

Dear Church Family,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Elders and the ECC church staff concerning changes that relate to rapidly evolving events in our community and around the world. As you are aware, we are facing an international health crisis that is affecting our life together. The Board and church staff have been in conversation about best practices to put in place during this fast-moving situation.

Several days ago, Indiana University released a statement that cancelled all classes following spring break for at least two weeks. As a result, our town will look significantly different until at least the first week of April. Our student population at ECC may reflect a non-academic calendar for the foreseeable future. In the past we have routinely scheduled only one service (10:00) during the holidays, spring break, and summer months. Prompted by these recent changes we have decided to extend our one service schedule (10:00) until at least the end of March. Additionally, we are immediately making a variety of other scheduling changes listed below.

- Only one service at 10:00 a.m. for the next three weeks
- No adult, youth, or children's programming during the worship service
- We will provide childcare for preschool age and younger.
- Connexion will be cancelled during the month of March
- All Bible studies and other group meetings that meet at ECC will be cancelled for March
- Mid-week music rehearsals (choir and band) will be cancelled during the month of March
- Our worship service will be live-streamed on our website and/or ECC Facebook page
- Offering baskets and worship bulletins will be placed at the back of the sanctuary
- We advise that you follow sanitary protocol, such as hand washing and not shaking hands, etc.
- Finally, we are requesting that you stay home if you are ill

Since these events are moving very rapidly it is difficult to respond perfectly. No doubt our decisions will be questioned by many with "why this and not that" questions. Imperfect as we are, please know that we have carefully and prayerfully considered these and other changes. We appreciate your patience as we continue to adapt to our new reality. More changes and modifications to these arrangements are likely to be forthcoming, so we will stay in touch with you by email, social media, and our website at [eccbloomington.org](http://eccbloomington.org). Also, we strongly advise that you follow the recommendation of health professionals, especially the [guidelines produced by the CDC](#).

Although our current circumstances no doubt produce fear for many, we can be confident that our God is sovereign over all the affairs of humanity. We ask that you pray for the world and national leaders so that they will be guided by the hand of God to make wise decisions on behalf of us all. Also, pray for the church around the world that God's grace will surround them as they minister to others.

Grace and peace,

Bob Whitaker  
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