



Dear Clarkson Church Family.

Over the past week, we have all been affected by the rapid rate of change in how we are being asked to respond to the impact of COVID-19. On Tuesday a team of staff and elders met and worked through the implications for our church family and the ways that we meet. It is our desire to follow the advice of health officials and close our regularly schedule programs as a church until Friday, April 3. We will follow closely the lead of health officials regarding dates beyond April 3 (the date until which schools are currently closed).

This means:

- Sunday Worship Services will not be held at the church for the next two Sundays.
- Children and Youth Programs (Kids Club, Youth Night, Youth Life Groups) will not run on Thursday or Friday nights
- Life Groups will not meet in person
- The church building will be closed and staff will work from home

Our desire in doing this is to express our desire to “love one another” by following the advice of health officials to reduce opportunities for the virus to spread. The exceptions to the above are that we continue to offer our building to Narcotics Anonymous for use to continue their care services and to The Compass as a place for those who do not have homes to meet.

As the staff have been working through these changes we recognize that this is a time that it is important for us to continue to be connected to each other. Physical isolation does not have to mean social isolation, so we are working on ways to remain connected to each other, whether through the telephone or online. We will be letting you know about opportunities to connect, whether through your Life Group, our e-mail list or social media. If you are not connected to these channels please make sure to follow ClarksonChurch on Facebook, ClarksonYouth on Instagram or email [office@clarksonchurch.ca](mailto:office@clarksonchurch.ca) to receive the emails. Until then, call your friends and family, write an email to someone who might be isolated, and if you're going to the grocery store ask your neighbours, friends, and family if they need anything.

In addition, we are connecting with many families in our church and neighbourhood and are asking how they are doing, offering to pray for them, and asking if there is any help they need. If you would be willing to pick up groceries, make telephone calls or provide support in any way to people in need, please contact Karen Klassen ([karen@clarksonchurch.ca](mailto:karen@clarksonchurch.ca) or 905.808.5689) so that she can add you to her list.

We are looking forward to continuing to be the church, albeit in new ways, over the coming weeks. We continue to believe that people matter more than programs, and all the more so during this temporary season. This means that the ministry of the church continues whenever we talk to each other, pray with each other or serve each other. We believe that this season is a time for us to continue to be the church, even if we cannot be at the church building.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are ways we can be praying for you, or supporting you, as we continue to follow Jesus into a life of faith, love and hope.

Jamie

**Jamie Bay**

Pastor

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