



How should people of faith move forward during times of panic and uncertainty?

This afternoon, Bishop Leeland, emailed the clergy of the Western North Carolina Conference and recommended that all United Methodist churches in Western NC **suspend public worship for the next two weeks**. The intent behind the suspension of public worship is to “slow the rate of infection in order to allow our health care services to respond appropriately. If the infection rate increases too quickly, we may not have the health care support required for everyone needing treatment.”

I spent this afternoon and evening brainstorming with the staff at Christ UMC, the Weekday Ministries Board, and several of my colleagues in the conference. Our collective belief is that we should err on the side of caution and suspend public worship at Christ UMC for the next two weeks. This Sunday, **March 15**, we will live stream worship through Facebook and broadcast it on the [Christ UMC Charlotte Facebook Page](#). We invite you to worship with us online at **10:30am**.

The following week, our hope is to identify, equip and empower a dozen or so folks from Christ UMC to host small groups in their homes starting on Sunday, **March 22nd** (and potentially after that, depending on what the medical experts tell us at that time). *These small groups will meet in homes the same way the early church once did.* Our hope is that we will all be able worship together virtually and then each small group gathered in a living room will be able to read a passage of Scripture, pray with one another, and share in lively discussion. If you would like to be a host home you can email me at jesse@xumc.org.

We will be developing a team within the church to help us pivot and redirect some of our current ministries to help those who will undoubtedly be in need from this crisis. Our midweek services and groups will also be suspended until further notice (this includes: Children, Youth, Pilates, etc.). Our Preschool has a scheduled day off tomorrow, Friday, March 13th and will make a decision on what is in the best interest of our children by Sunday afternoon.

We will communicate updates frequently and ask that you continue to pray and that you continue to support the mission and ministry of Christ UMC through online giving. You can set up a recurring gift through xumc.org/give.

I am confident that we will continue to find ways to exercise our faith in the midst of this uncertain time because that’s what the cross of Christ calls us to do.

Peace,
Jesse