

March 13, 2020

Dear Christ First Friends,

The constant news coverage regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) spread worldwide has led to understandable concern as what will come next. One recommended strategy for mitigating community spread of infection is “*social distancing*”. This term coined by epidemiologists, refers to a conscious effort to reduce close contact between people, hence hopefully lessening the community spread of a virus...in this case COVID-19. Events world-wide, where large crowds and close quarters are involved, have now being cancelled to reduce the spread of the virus. Churches have also taken the lead and cancelled services in this Holy Season of Lent.

We are fortunate at Christ First to have a team of healthcare professionals (Kay Cranston, Heather McGillis, Ruth Collins, & Nancy Hori) who are working on your behalf. They have been proactive in ensuring the protocols for a safe environment are in place, and addressing next steps. However, as many of our members are in the vulnerable demographics, it was decided, that it was in everyone's best interest to

**suspend Sunday church services for the foreseeable future
starting Sunday March 15, 2020.**

All service associated activities are also cancelled.

In the best interest of our congregation and the community at large, the Spring Thing (ST) leadership team & advising council decided to postpone Spring Thing 2020. Our intention is to consider introducing ST, or a version of ST, in September. We are formulating plans right now to assess that feasibility. We will be communicating developments on this idea to you shortly.

As of this date, the following church activities, and programs have also been cancelled.

Notification of future cancellations should go through the church office so that the information can be disseminated.

- Essentrics – Tuesday & Thursday mornings
- Quilting Group – Tuesday mornings
- Coffee Hour- Port Credit Campus – March 17
- Lenten Bible Study - The Rev. Dr. Ted Lutz – Monday evenings
- March Break Music Fun Day- Friday March 20, 2020

Given the fluidity of this rapidly changing situation, we will be providing updates as our status changes.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Shaver,
Chair of Council