

Hello Clemmons First Family,

I have some unfortunate news to share with you all; I want to let you know that our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Katie Grace, has tested positive for COVID. She along with Karen, Barry, Jeremy, and me sat together in staff meeting yesterday afternoon prior to her positive test, and I sat with her individually for an hour after that meeting. We were all wearing our masks and socially distancing at all times.

First, let me say that Katie Grace feels terrible about having exposed staff members to the virus. I have assured her that there is nothing for her to be ashamed of or feel guilty about because she has taken every CDC-recommended precaution and did not intentionally contract COVID or spread the virus. As of this writing, she remains asymptomatic. Please pray for her and her family. Multiple members of her family have also tested positive and several family members, including Katie Grace, have preexisting conditions that place them at a higher risk for complications. This, of course, is extremely distressing to Katie Grace. So, please keep her and her family in your prayers and send her words of love and encouragement.

Second, if you were around Katie Grace for any length of time this past Sunday, it may be wise for you to take every precaution including self-isolation and testing for COVID. This would especially apply for the children and families of those who attended Sunday school or Children's Church with her.

Third, and I hate to use this well-worn phrase but, out of an abundance of caution, all worship services, rehearsals, and other staff-led activities are cancelled for the next two weeks during which we will all be self-isolating. Sunday school classes and other groups that meet throughout the week can meet at their own discretion. However, err on the side of being conservative, and please continue to use masks that cover your nose and mouth, socially distance, and wash your hands regularly. We hope to return to in-person worship on November 29, the first Sunday in Advent, but we will make a decision on that at a later date after relevant staff has been tested. The church office will reopen on November 30.

Fourth, our worship plan is for Jeremy to livestream worship music from his home at 10:00 AM on Sunday on the CFBC Facebook page and for me to livestream the message following that time. The link to the videos will also be placed on the church website. This is not ideal, but it is the best that we can do at this time.

Fifth, the Business Meeting scheduled for the 18th and Deacon Elections scheduled for the 15th will be postponed to a date to be determined in December.

Lastly, we have done everything we can to keep you safe during this season of COVID. We are taking these actions and have taken all the precautions we have because we love you. Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others." So, when we cancel worship on any given week, we are looking out for your interests. Our ultimate goal is to improve the condition of your souls, but we can't do that very well if we do not also attend to your physical well-being.

Grace & Peace,

Wade

Wade Arnold, MDiv, PhD, Pastor

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