



What is COVID Care?

COVID Care is a special fund designated by the elders of Mountain View that will be used exclusively for the purposes of serving the vast and diverse needs that arise in our communities during this pandemic. Many of you give generously through your tithes and offerings to the diverse missions and ministries of MVCC, and for that your staff and elders thank you.

This fund is designed as a way for people, able and desiring to give gifts back to God beyond their regular tithes and offerings, to be able to do so to help Mountain View and other partnering churches meet real needs throughout this pandemic. Thank you in advance for the gifts many of you will give.

Rationale: Two months ago, your staff began asking questions, alongside others in the Body, as to what will be the long-term impact this pandemic will have on our church families and our neighbors socially, emotionally, and financially. We started by asking questions inside the church primarily through our Care Call Team who called through the MVCC database seeking to pray with you and encourage you, our church family, and to get a sense where our families would be if the pandemic continued.

I, Pastor Mark, began meeting with local pastors via Zoom strategically to gain insight from those who serve a large cross-section of our community—our Caucasian, African American, and Hispanic populations. What we discovered is that across the board many churches are weathering this pandemic well from a financial perspective. We can't speak for all, but we were encouraged by what we heard. Collectively, we feel that the months to come will begin to show the financial, emotional, and relational strain this pandemic has caused here in Culpeper and surrounding counties. Mountain View, in cooperation with other churches, wants to be prepared to show the love of Jesus to our church families, neighbors, and local businesses who are in crisis. The opportunities, we believe, will be diverse and extensive.

For example, do you know that for the first time in recent history Culpeper alone has three massive food distribution programs serving our residents on three of four Saturdays a month? On one such food distribution in early May, 70% of those receiving food were first-timers. This was only two weeks after Empower Culpeper had their largest food distribution ever. These three food distributions do not even take into account what our amazing food bank at St. Steven's Episcopal Church is doing to support local residents.

As local pastors, we believe that when government stimulus money runs out, and it will, and if the USDA food distribution centers begin to run short on food, the local Church (Capital C—not any one local expression) will become the hub of feeding our neighbors life-giving sustenance. We want to be ready. The economic fallout from this pandemic is, and will continue, causing great hardships for local businesses. This growing group of church leaders are working with local community leadership to find ways to tangibly support local businesses.

There is no way to determine the toll this pandemic will have on the mental health of the members of our community. SAFE, a local ministry supporting abused women, has had an uptick in calls, and crisis hotlines are seeing an increase in call volume. As church leaders, we are asking ourselves, "What will the Church in Culpeper offer on an ongoing basis to meet the emotional, mental, and relational needs of

our neighbors?” This is what we are working on. And we believe that the answers will come, in part, with a financial price tag. We want to be ready...and you can help.

This pandemic is drawing the local churches together in ways I have not experienced in a long time. I’ve met some amazing pastors who are passionate about the ministry of the local Church and who are looking to join together to serve our communities in some practical yet innovative ways during this pandemic. Our MVCC Vision, in part, reads: “Connecting Communities and Empowering People to Make Jesus Known.” Now, that “connecting” includes the larger Church family in the Culpeper area. I’m okay with that.

If you are able, at this time, to financially help the Churches of Culpeper prepare financially to meet all the practical needs not yet known, then consider giving to COVID Care. This fund is governed by the staff and elders of MVCC and will be used in cooperation with funds collected by other church fellowships. As stated earlier, these funds are for the exclusive use of community needs related to this pandemic. If the funds raised outpace the demand over the coming months, we will make sure all donations are used to support worthy benevolence causes in our community.

Blessings,



Pastor Mark 😊

...on behalf of your staff and elders

All gifts to this fund will be used separate from other budget monies exclusively for needs that arise within our community during this COVID crisis.

- CASH/CHECK: Write COVID Care in the memo line and mail to MVCC, 16088 Rogers Road, Culpeper, VA 22701
- Online Giving: Choose the COVID Care option in the drop down menu at <https://mountainviewcc.net/give/>
- Church Center App: Select “COVID Care” in the drop down menu.