

March 13, 2020

Dear Wayne Church Family,

Our church takes the health and well-being of our community, congregation and staff very seriously. We have all been bombarded by the news of the coronavirus (COVID-19), which is not only around the world, but also right here among us. For good reasons, this is of great concern to our community, and to many of you as well. First let me say, we have no known cases of coronavirus among our church family, including our Montessori School and other groups that frequent the church property. The measures we are taking are precautionary as we monitor virus updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), medical professionals, and local health departments.

Our church staff met on Tuesday, March 3rd, followed by our Leadership Team last evening to discuss what we all felt was the most appropriate way to address this illness considering upcoming church events. Here is what we feel is best for our church at this time:

#### CHURCH SCHEDULES & EVENTS

- The church will be closed to all church group events including worship services, youth group, Bible studies, community groups, rehearsals, etc. through Friday March 27, 2020. Online worship will be offered via Facebook *LIVE* during the period the church is closed. [Join us online Sunday at 10:30.](#)
- Our Wayne Food Pantry will remain open to serve the community during its regular operating hours Wednesdays and Thursdays 9AM – 1PM.
- The church staff will keep regular hours and continue to offer pastoral care to meet the needs of our community.
- Your Leadership will be meeting at least weekly to monitor the coronavirus situation as it unfolds and keep you informed of future developments.

During the period which the church is closed for events and after operation resumes, we will continue to take the following precautionary measures and ask for your cooperation.

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- If you or a family member is sick, may have been directly exposed to the virus or have traveled to a high-alert area (currently China, South Korea, Iran, Italy, Japan), please follow the CDC guidelines and refrain from attending church services during the 14-day incubation period and instead worship with us online.
- If at any time you are not comfortable attending worship, please join us online.
- Follow the guidelines from the CDC to help prevent the spread of the virus. (General guidelines listed at the end of this document.)

#### STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

- Our staff and volunteers are committed to maintaining a healthy environment and will wash their hands frequently.
- Staff and volunteers who are sick or may have been exposed to the virus will stay home for the recommended quarantine period.

## WORSHIP

- In addition to regular cleaning, we are sanitizing highly touched surfaces before and after worship and programs.
- We have hand sanitizing stations throughout our buildings, and we have additional hand sanitizing supplies on order. As we await delivery, you may want to carry your own hand sanitizer so you can use it as often as you wish.
- We will discontinue the serving of communion during worship until an appropriate time.
- We will not be passing attendance notebooks or offering plates. We encourage you to use online giving and prayer request options or place your prayer request or offering in baskets at the sanctuary exits or in the mail.
- When greeting one another, we encourage you to smile, wave or bump elbows. Our staff and volunteers will still greet you warmly, just not shake your hand.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- Our congregational care team is committed to offering excellent care to our congregation, including visits to hospitals and care homes, but they will be taking additional precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Pastors and volunteers will not visit if they are sick or have been exposed to the virus.
- They will diligently wash hands before and after every visit.
- We will temporarily refrain from touching patients and holding their hands.

## SMALL GROUPS AND CLASSES

- When Team Meetings, Bible Studies and small groups resume, we encourage you to use precautions appropriate for your own personal health situation.
- If coronavirus continues to spread in our local community, we will follow the guidance of the health department and CDC.
- As a regular practice in our Wayne Kids classes and nurseries, we disinfect all surfaces and toys and encourage frequent hand washing, however keeping your child home if they are symptomatic is the best way to prevent the spread of illness.

## YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water (100 degrees F) for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and warm water if your hands are visibly dirty.

Friends, we serve an Eternal Savior who has put us in this place at this time for a reason. Don't panic and don't live in fear. Instead, let us use this as a witness opportunity. People around you may be fearful. This may be your chance to represent Jesus Christ, how he has made a difference in your life, allowing you to express eternal hope during days of panic and fear. Remember Joshua as he faced a new unforeseen future standing on the banks of the River Jordan as the Lord proclaims, *"Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* -Joshua 1:9b

There will be more to come. We are all praying for our community and our world in these days of human uncertainty, knowing we live with assurance in Christ.

Faithfully,

Pastor Tom & your Church Leadership