

Beloved community,

News of COVID-19 (coronavirus) has put all of us on edge and many of us are taking necessary steps to be prepared and remain healthy. As a community we continue to pray for all those who have been exposed, infected, or dealing with the loss of precious loved ones due to this contagious virus.

As a church community that is open to the public, we are taking necessary precautions to keep people safe and follow best practices.

First of all, if you are feeling sick or have flu-like symptoms please stay at home and get good rest. It is wise to be cautious and not spread any unnecessary germs. If you are sick and do not have family or friends in the area, please call the church office (425-226-2420) for assistance. We are mobilizing a team of people who can drop off essential items, especially to our vulnerable members of the community.

Here are some of the precautions we are taking as a community:

CLEANING:

We will be disinfecting all doorknobs on a daily basis. We will also be disinfecting the kitchen, bathrooms and tables/chairs on a frequent schedule. We are also asking all outside groups to disinfect the spaces they use after any event. We have placed signs throughout the building to remind people to wash their hands on a regular basis.

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK MEAL and WORSHIP:

For the season of Lent, we will be gathering for a community meal and worship! Janet Anderson is preparing a delicious, homemade soup. Instead of the community bringing salads and desserts, St. Matthew's will provide this part of the meal to lessen the possibility of contamination. We will have designated servers with gloves fill our plates and bowls with goodness. There will be a FREE-WILL donation for dinner. Worship will begin at 7pm with excerpts of GODSPELL :)

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS:

Passing of the Peace: For this season, we will not be passing the peace with a handshake or hug. Please do not take any offense if greeters or myself do not greet you with a welcoming handshake when you come for worship or when you are leaving. Instead, I will be placing my hand on my heart as a gesture of love and welcome.

Communion: At the 8am service we will be distributing communion in the same manner of small cups and bread. Communion servers will be washing their hands with soap and water before they help with distribution. At the 10am service we will be offering a chalice of wine (high alcohol content that helps kill germs) and a chalice of grape juice. Communion servers will be washing their hands with soap and water before distribution. We will be sterilizing all of our communion ware before and after it is used for communion. You can always come forward and take the bread and not partake of the grape juice or wine, trusting that God is fully present in the sacrament. Ushers will also have hand sanitizer that you can use before taking communion.

May the God of all grace and love, hold each of you in a grip of unwavering peace. We will remain united in our love for God and our love for community, even as we remind everyone we meet to "wash their hands."

If you are having anxiety or worry, please reach out to the church office 425.226.2420. We are here to walk with you during this time.

In Christ's love, Pastor Kacey and Staff (Libby, Derek, Cameron, TJ and Dave)