

Dear WPC church family,

Our televisions, computers, and conversations are full of coronavirus talk. Among our own friends and family (even our own thoughts) we range from panic to disregard. I want to lovingly call you to the way of peace, preparation and love of neighbor.

Session had an extended conversation about COVID-19 ("coronavirus") at our regular meeting last night. Broadly, the Session approved three aspects to our response: modification, monitoring, and communication. Specifics follow on the next page.

As I did with the elders, I want to re-iterate with you the importance of finding the wise and responsible ground between over-reacting and under-reacting. We want to choose compassionate awareness, be wise and discerning in collecting information, and be faithful and informed in our actions.

Loving Our Neighbors: As individuals this means thinking past "am I at risk" to the more at-risk members of our church family. As a church family with many older members who have a higher risk if they contract COVID-19, the session is requesting that you stay home if you or someone in your household is sick or symptomatic in any way (whether this, flu, cold, or other). This is one of the primary ways that we can love each other during this time. Staying home if you are sick is not a sign of lack of faith or trust in God. It is an act of love and care for your church family. If you have a responsibility at church we'll cover for you; just let us know!

Worship on Sunday: In conversation with the Presbytery leadership, we have decided to suspend the breakfast and special discernment morning scheduled for this Sunday. The plan is to have regular worship in the fellowship hall at 10 AM. Sunday school will be cancelled this week, and we will not be serving food.

Worship Moving forward: The Session voted that our closure policy will be follow that of the adjacent school districts. If East York county school district or Lancaster County school districts close, we will follow their lead and temporarily suspend Sunday morning worship. In the case that worship is suspended, I will work closely with the worship team to create ways for worship and connection and spiritual care to continue to take place even if we cannot meet face to face. Already at Session some good ideas were put forward, and we have a team with excellent skills and capacities to help us stay connected to God and to each other in this time of recommended social distancing.

Thank you for being a part of THIS special church family. Know that you are deeply loved, God is with us, and that your leadership is praying with you and for you. If you have any special needs

or concerns or just need someone to pray with please call Pastor Simeon or one of the other elders.

-Pastor Simeon on behalf of the WPC Session

MODIFICATION of existing activities to reduce risk of exposure.

- Wash hands for at least 20 sec with warm, soapy water upon entering the church building. If necessary use hand sanitizer.
- Increased professional cleaning of WPC building
- Interior/exterior doorknobs, handles, faucets cleaned on Sunday morning prior to people arriving for worship.
- Refrain from hand-to-hand contact (ushers, greeters, “passing of the peace” time, etc...)
- Common surfaces/food: we are modifying a number of activities so that multiple people will not touch surfaces or food that others might touch; this may involve a single server with gloves or washed/disinfected hands as well as sealed or pre-packaged items; applies to communion, offering, fellowship time, dinner church, coffee area, etc...
- Offering: We will not pass the plate; plates will be located in the rear of the fellowship hall.

MONITORING: We intend to make decisions on individual events based on the current state of the virus, government guidance, etc..., and will communicate to members and regular visitors as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATION: We will provide multiple forms of clear and regular communication including bulletin inserts, congregational emails, updating the church website, social media posts, and telephone calls to low-technology members.