

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

From Pastor Chad:

This Sunday is a big day in the life of our church! It is my hope that you will be available to hear our presentation by the building team and that you will be as excited as I am about the future of our ministry together. We will make every effort to stream our presentation and record it for those of you who choose to stay away from the crowd. I recognize just how serious this pandemic could be for members of our community. I want to encourage you to know that our God is with us in this challenging time and that our life here on earth is only temporary. Our faith in Christ is the key to the kingdom! Do not live in fear, but live with hope and confidence for the future. Jesus spoke these words for all who know him, “peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” I have appointed a team of three Registered Nurses in our congregation to help us make adjustments and recommendations to help keep our congregation as healthy as possible. Here are their recommendations:

We have been monitoring the updates on the coronavirus (COVID-19) and want to let you know what we are doing in response to this virus. We don't want to be fearful but want to be responsible and prepared in our choices of how we are worshipping to keep everyone safe and healthy. Our concern is for the more fragile members who are prone to illness and/or have underlying issues that could make them more at risk.

With the help of nurses, the Pettis County Health Dept., the regional office of the denomination and the CDC recommendations, we have decided on the following:

1. **Continue to remind our church family of hygiene basics:**
 - Wash hands often
 - Stay home when sick or coughing a lot
 - Refrain from shaking hands and hugging
 - Do not cough or sneeze into hands, only into elbows
 - Avoid touching face (nose, mouth, and eyes)
2. **Temporary changes to our communion and offering**
 - We will be celebrating with our first ever virtual communion

- Deacons with offering plates will stand at each door for offering to be dropped off at either the beginning or at the end of the service
 - No homebound or nursing home visits will be done at this time
- 3. Morning donuts will stop for now**
- Coffee will continue but with paper cups only
- 4. Commit to extra attention to cleaning church facilities**
- All Sunday school teachers will have cleaning supplies to clean their classroom before and after class or meetings
 - Any and all other groups will be doing the same
 - There will be notes on each door of each room as a reminder
 - Please make sure you are cleaning tables, chairs, door handles, light switches etc.
 - Everyone is responsible for this (Mike will concentrate on main areas and bathrooms)
 - Nursery will be decreasing the number of toys in the nursery and those toys that remain will be cleaned after each use
- 5. Pews, pew Bibles and Hymnals**
- Pew Bibles and Hymnals will be removed for now
- 6. Water fountains will be turned off**
- 7. No bulletins will be printed starting next week**

Should the virus directly impact Pettis County or surrounding counties, more changes will be made and communicated to the congregation. We are committed to serve others, so if you know of someone who can't get out much because they are at high risk, call them and see if they need anything. We want to continue God's work but remember to be responsible in doing it.

Remember to please follow these guidelines, take precautions, stay home if sick especially with fever and/or cough due to any illness. You can also watch the services on www.first4god.com. We will continue to monitor and make any updates or changes as needed.

If you have any questions about coronavirus you may use the following resources.

- Missouri Dept. of Health and Senior Services hotline 1-877-435-8411
- www.pettiscountyhealthcenter.com
- www.coronavirus.gov
- www.cdc.gov