



Friday, March 13, 2020

Friends of Bethel,

We are all well aware of the spread of the Corona/Covid-19 Virus.

As leaders at Bethel, we have been paying close attention to what we see is going on around us, and we are in dialogue with the medical community and local authorities.

In response, we have put together a plan for this weekend. We hope it will offer some options for you, and keep us all safe:

- First, we encourage all people who are not feeling well, or are at risk, to stay home.
- Please note, our 8:00am Sunday service will be broadcast on WEVR Radio (AM 1550/ FM 106.3). Our 9:30 Sunday service will be streaming live on our Bethel Facebook page (facebook.com/blchudson/)
- Sunday School classes, our nursery, and our 2nd grade milestone are postponed for this weekend
- We will offer all four worship services this weekend for those who feel confident in coming. We encourage some from the 9:30 hour to consider shifting to one of our smaller services (at 5:00pm, 8:00am, and 11:00am)
- We are suspending the shaking of hands at all points of our services (as well as before and after).
- Offering plates will be put in a stationary location, and not passed
- Communion will be offered as an option only after each service (and we will use small cups rather than intinction)
- No refreshments (coffee & cookies) will be served after any of our services this weekend.

Please know, we have increased the scope and intensity of our cleaning and sanitation of our worship spaces and narthexes at both campuses.

AND FINALLY, if there is a confirmed case here at Bethel, or in our Preschool (or sooner, if necessary) we will:

- Suspend all public worship and gatherings
- Provide radio and live streaming worship only
- Cancel any meetings taking place at Bethel's Campuses

We will reassess as we go each week, friends.

Throughout any and all of these processes we will stay in close communication via email; please be sure to refer to our website (bethelhudson.org/) and Facebook page (facebook.com/blchudson/) regularly for updates as well.

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In the short term, we ask two simple requests:

1/PLEASE PRAY...For those affected by the virus, no matter what community/country they are from. Pray for those that are most vulnerable. Pray for our medical professionals and caregivers. Pray for those who are affected by this health crisis economically. And pray that all People of God will remain strong, faithful, and virtuous at a time like this.

2/PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID...This is an anxious time for everyone with a lot of unknowns. Yet God continues to tell us through the scriptures, "Don't be afraid!" We don't know all that the future holds, yet we know WHO holds the future! God promises to walk with us through times like this, friends. Rely on that promise, please.

Now go wash your hands!

All God's Blessings!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Lestock". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Pastor John Lestock
For Bethel's Staff and Church Council

*At this point, we have canceled the Lenten supper for this Wednesday, March 18th. If you are not comfortable attending one of the services (at 5:00 or 7:00) they will be live streamed on Bethel's Facebook page.