

Dear friends,

Do not be afraid! This is the command most mentioned in the Bible. Do not be afraid. We try to act out of faith and not out of fear. We try to be faithful in all we do and in who we are. Faithful to the message of Jesus and faithful to each other in good times and in sad times.

We as Christians need each other as we are living out our faith. We are asked to live in the world and to respond to the events happening in the world.

We all have heard about the spread of COVID 19. We all have heard that washing hands is the best prevention of spreading the virus to other people. We at church have taken extra steps to be clean and disinfect especially high touch areas. We thought carefully of how to be together and to continue to worship. However, yesterday afternoon governor DeWine made a public statement, that the public schools will be closed and gatherings of people are to be limited.

Friends, times have changed. After long and prayerful deliberations and research how other churches are reacting, the church leadership came to the conclusion, that we are **not offering public worship on March 15, 22 and 29 but all services will be [streamed](#)** on our YouTube channel. We are not doing this out of fear, but out of love. Out of love for all, especially for those with compromised immune systems and to prevent the spread of the virus.

Additionally, **all church meetings and gatherings are cancelled through April 3.**

This Sunday was supposed to be Youth Sunday. This is postponed. Instead, Pastor Dan, Michael and I will be streaming worship and invite all of you to worship with out of the safety of your home at 10:30 or thereafter. We love you all, we care for you and also want to limit the spread of the virus. .

We invite you to reach out to us, to the church office or to your deacon either electronically or by phone. We also invite you to continue to reach out to each other - especially those who have a compromised immune system. Give them a call, send them an e-mail or a text and check how your friends are doing. If you have any needs in getting groceries or prescriptions and do not want to go out in public, please reach out to us and we will try to help you. Please reach out - we want to help you. We continue to share the ever-widening circle of Christ's love, even though we are not physically together.

We are united in Spirit and as a church community. Even though we are not

able to share our gifts on Sunday, we invite you to either mail your offering or stop by and drop it off. You may also give [electronically](#). We support one another and continue to do God's work in the community and worldwide.

Friends, these are challenging times and we are in this all together. Please don't be afraid, but live as people of faith and share God's love, just keeping your physical distance for a little while. Social distancing is not isolation. Social distancing is love and care.

The apostle Paul writes in his letter to the church in Corinth, in 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 and 24-27 -

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it with Christ. For in the one spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and we are all made to drink of one Spirit.

God has created the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it. If one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

Thank you for caring for one another, thank you for sharing the ever widening circle of Christ's love.

Pastor Sigrid

[A Coronavirus Prayer](#)