

A special message from.... Pastor Kevin

Dear Church Family & Friends,

When King Ahaz of Judah was facing an imminent threat to the welfare of his people, Isaiah offered him this encouraging, yet cautionary word: "Be careful and stay calm. Don't fear, and don't lose heart." (Isaiah 7:4).

Many of you have questions about Palm Coast UMC's response to the Corona virus (COVID-19). We take the health and well-being of our congregants, staff and friends very seriously. In addition to ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and healthy environment, we have temporarily implemented the following precautionary measures. We have plans in place for additional actions if necessitated by the severity of the outbreak.

Responsibilities:

- * If you or a family member is sick, or may have been directly exposed to the virus or have traveled to a high-alert area, please follow the CDC guidelines and refrain from attending church worship experiences during the 14-day incubation period and instead Worship with us online.
- * Our staff and volunteers are committed to maintaining a healthy environment and will wash their hands often. Staff members who are sick or may have been exposed to the virus will stay home for the recommended quarantine period.
- * When greeting one another, we encourage you to smile, wave or bump elbows. Our staff and volunteers will greet you warmly, just not shake your hand.
- * Our clergy care team remains committed to offering excellent care to our congregation, including visits to hospitals and nursing homes. They will be taking additional precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.
- *We are CANCELING all small groups, community groups, and classes for two weeks. Thanks for your understanding.

Finally, as people of Faith, may the words of a traditional spiritual hymn minister to your heart during this crisis situation: There Is A Balm In Gilead (#375 hymnal).

(A spiritual medicine perfume)

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my words in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.
Don't ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend,
who, if you asked for knowledge,
will never fail to lend.

As we move through this Lenten/Easter season, let us Trust in our Balm in Gilead.

Be Blessed & Safe,
Dr. Kevin M. James, Sr

