

Dear IBC Family,

“...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” II Timothy 1:7.

As the corona virus (COVID-19) has taken center stage in the news media and in the minds of people around the world, we find an opportunity, as God’s people, to be agents of peace, hope, and joy in the midst of scary times. Let us fix our eyes firmly upon the Lord for His guidance moving forward, as well as exercising wisdom to “walk in the light” that we have each day.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta has provided interim guidance for taking precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The leadership of IBC is taking the CDC ideas and announcements seriously as we develop protocols to follow in the protection of our people. We will communicate these protocols through online communications as well as announcements on Sundays from the pulpit.

We have formed a team to establish these protocols for our large gathering settings, such as Sunday Morning Services. We suggest that all other gatherings follow similar protocols.

As we provide these cautionary protocols, it is not beyond us that God gave very similar, very specific ordinances to the Children of Israel in Leviticus (so long ago!) to keep them healthy as they traveled through the wilderness. So, as we proceed, let us all be reminded that God knows all about viruses, disease, and cleanliness. HE IS SOVEREIGN! This COVID-19 virus has NOT caught Him by surprise. Let us seek Him persistently and in earnest as we rely on Him for wisdom and for outcomes—For His Glory!

PROTOCOLS

- Quarantine
 - If you are sick with symptoms of respiratory illness (coughing, shortness of breath, fever), **stay home**.

- Disinfection
 - As you walk into the church building, we request that everyone sanitize their hands at the sanitizer dispensers.
 - Wash hands thoroughly with soap (at least 20 seconds) after restroom use.

- NOTE: As the virus is transmitted by physical contact, we encourage all of us to avoid traditional handshakes for now and use a “fist bump” or “elbow bump” instead. (Yes, this is a difficult one for a loving body like IBC!)

This email is the first in a series of communiques that we will send out to the IBC family in order to keep ourselves updated and “on the same page.” As stated at the beginning of this email, we

trust completely in our God and we watch eagerly for opportunities to be a “Light on a Hill” for Jesus’s sake and for His Glory.

For His Glory,

Team C-Virus:

Dr. Vern Swenson

Nurse Marti Tinkham

Nurse Kathy Craven

Dr. Rob Craven

Elder Steve Blakeman

Deacon Joe Fors

Pastor Tom Lotz