

March 16th, 2020



MCC Friends and Family,

I promised you an update on where our **long-term plan** and **strategy** is currently, concerning the pandemic crisis. As you know, this is a very fluid situation. Thank you for being patient with our leaders, as our Session and Diaconate prayerfully weigh in and decide on matters related to this ever-evolving challenge.

We hope to provide frequent updates, as brief and efficient as possible, particularly in the areas of **Congregational Care**, **Community Outreach**, **Worship**, and **Discipleship**.

Congregational Care – How will we act to care for our congregation members, especially the most vulnerable among us during this crisis?

Currently our Deacons are working hard to **gather information** to find out what needs exist among members of the congregation.

If you personally, have any needs at all, would you please contact the deacons at deacons@murrysvillechurch.com?

Some needs might include, but are not limited to grocery shopping, food, medication, financial assistance, childcare, social interaction because of the mental and emotional effects of isolation during social distancing, needing someone to talk to over the phone or in person, etc.

Do you know of any members of our congregation that have any of these needs or others?

Community Outreach – How will we act to love our neighbors in Murrysville and the surrounding communities?

Our deacons, elders, and staff are currently reaching out to Community members and leaders in the coming days, in order to find out what ways we can mobilize help for our neighbors.

Again, **we need your help to gather such information** about needs in our community and among our neighbors. If you know of any needs that our church might be able to help with please email our deacons at deacons@murrysvillechurch.com.

Do check on your neighbors, especially the elderly and persons with compromised immune systems. If there are needs that you cannot provide yourself, please notify our

deacons by email at deacons@murrysvillechurch.com and we will consider what help we might be able to provide.

Worship – What is our plan for public worship practices during this time?

The CDC has issued the call for gatherings of 50 persons or more to be discontinued for the next 8 weeks. The Session is currently deciding what this means for how we will facilitate corporate worship at MCC. For now, we will once again offer an online worship experience on Sunday, March 22nd at 10 am, as we did yesterday, March 15th, 2020.

Discipleship – Concerning ministry events and activities related to MCC

As with our corporate worship practices in the coming weeks, we will do our best to recommend and facilitate resources to help you and your family grow in your relationship with Jesus. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for helpful tools and available resources for you and your family.

For example, families with children, our Children's Ministry Team hopes to have a list of resources and tools made available to you very soon.

Thank You

Thank you for your support, encouragement, and love for one another and our church during these difficult times. Keep checking our website, especially the COVID-19 Updates page, as well as our Facebook Page for up to date information about MCC.

Also remember to check out the Center of Disease Control, World Health Organization, and the Allegheny Department of Health websites, for up to date information on the recommended safe practices, policies, and guidelines from our local, state, and federal governments.

As always, please call or email me if you would like to talk.

Grace,
Pastor Jason Leist