

Dear LCC Family,

With the outbreak of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) in recent weeks, we as a church must be prepared to respond to this situation should the virus significantly affect life in the Tampa Bay area. Our staff has developed the following plan in response, which has been approved by Session:

- **Replace worry with prayer.** Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT) says “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” What a tremendous promise! We have no need to fear the future, because our wise, good, sovereign, loving God knows and holds the future. So we pray the virus stops spreading, pray for those who are sick, and pray for wisdom for officials at all levels and for our church.
- **Wash your hands.** You have heard this over and over in recent days. Hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of many varieties of bacteria and viruses. We are looking into adding hand sanitizing stations (but these are hard to come by right now...!).
- **Stay home if you are sick.** If you show any symptoms, please stay at home. Don’t run the risk of spreading an infection. If you need anything (food or medicine), call the church office and we will make sure to send someone to help.
- **If you are diagnosed with Coronavirus, notify the church office immediately.**
- **Greetings.** Handshakes are not expected, but love of neighbor is. For the time being, we can replace handshakes with waves or elbow bumps.
- **Cancellations.** For the safety of the members of our congregation, especially the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions, we will be cancelling all non-worship activities until after Easter. This will include, unfortunately, the Spring Carnival, Bible studies, meetings, exercise group, and Hands of Love. Outside groups, such as Scouts and YoungLife, will make their decisions independently. Faith In Action and Mustard Seed Garden will not be affected as they are outside in non-confined areas, but I would encourage them to adapt hygiene protocols. Session, Deacons, and ministry teams who need to meet, should meet electronically. Through Workspace, we have the ability to set up conference calls and video conferencing for all who need it. After Easter, we will reevaluate. If we do have to cancel a worship service, watch your email, Facebook, and the church website. Should we have to cancel a Sunday morning service, we will have a worship service online.
- **Consider online giving.** If we have to cancel a Sunday morning service, consider giving online to support the continuing mission of the church.
- **Regular communication will be vital.** Because of the fluidity of the situation, the church staff will be monitoring the situation and recommendations given by the CDC and state/local officials. We will communicate any updates to plans as they occur.

This is an opportunity for us to show wisdom and also love for our neighbors as we live in a world groaning for the return of Christ (Romans 8:22–24). We won’t live in fear, but we will walk in wisdom together until that Day.

With love as your Pastor,

Jody