

Dear Church Family,

Philippians 2:3b-4 says, **“In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”** This verse is really the heart of what I want to share with you today. We find ourselves as a church and within our greater community in a health emergency like none most of us have ever experienced before. I will be honest in admitting that my first response to these kinds of situations is often to give them little time or concern. However, over the past few days that attitude has changed. Especially when I remember Paul’s teaching here to the Philippians. **It is with a desire to look not to our own interest but the interests of others that I share with you the following information.**

Over the next 3 Sundays we will not be physically meeting together but instead will conduct services online. The service will be at the same time (10:30 a.m.) each Sunday morning. This will include our regular worship and message. **[Click here to go directly to the live stream.](#)** During this same period of time I am asking that all other church related activities (bible studies, small groups, youth group, preschool etc.) also pause. It is our great hope and prayer that by taking these actions we will help to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus and help to protect those who are more vulnerable in our church community and in our greater Whidbey Island and Seattle communities. After this time we will assess the situation and inform you of our plans moving forward.

During this time, our soup kitchen will also transition to making bag lunches and provide a pick-up service for those who are in need of this service.

This is a unique situation but also a unique opportunity to share Jesus’ love. So many around us are experiencing panic and fear as they try to

gather the very basic of needs. As a congregation let's look for ways to help and share love with one another and with our community. Pick up the phone and call each other, FaceTime and check in with each other, pray with and for each other. **Please let us (the church office), know if you or a friend need necessities, like food, water, toilet paper etc.** We will find ways, in a safe manner, to help meet those needs whether that would be for a member of our church family or an unbelieving friend. Wouldn't it be wonderful if in the midst of this emergency people would see our response to others and say, "Look at how much they love!" That is my hope and prayer.

As I am sure you are aware the needs of our church and it's ministries will still need your help and support. **You can continue to support by giving in the following ways:**

- Sign up with your personal bank adding, Island Church as a payee:
 - Payee Name: Island Church of Whidbey
 - Payee Zip: 98260
 - Payee Account Number (Recommended): Leave blank
- Write a check and send it in the mail
- Drop off a check or cash in the church office
- [Give online](#)

As I have said in difficult situations before, "None of this has caught God by surprise!". Jesus is still on the throne and he is still firmly and fully in control. But let us look for ways in the coming weeks to, "share the hope that is within us" 1 Peter 3:15... Hope not in ourselves, not in our government, but in our Jesus. May his name be glorified and uplifted in all of this!

In His Grace and for His Glory,
Pastor Will