

Responding to Growing Concerns of COVID 19 (Coronavirus)

FPCLY Congregants, FPC Weekday School Families, Scouts, AI Anon, Friends and Family,

With recent reports about the spread of the coronavirus (or COVID-19) now reaching the East Coast and Virginia, we want you to know that the ongoing health and wellness of this community is a very important concern to the Pastors, Church Staff, Session, FPC Weekday School Staff, and FPC Weekday School Board. We are currently doing all we can to stay up to date with the VA Department of Health, Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Department of Social Services (DSS). Our focus to date in responding to this situation has been to follow best practices for hygiene, like washing hands, and exercising an abundance of caution and care. Whereas there are no 100% guarantees, our efforts will include the following:

- 1.** Hand sanitizer will be provided and located at all major entrances and gathering spaces of First Presbyterian's facility: Church Offices, FPC Weekday School/ Nursery, Sanctuary, Officer's Room, and Fellowship Hall.
- 2.** More vigilant cleaning – Our cleaning crew has been asked to provide increased diligence when cleaning restrooms, classrooms (including Nursery, Faith Mountain area, Worship Workshop and Gateway Rooms, Scout Room), church and school offices, and all other gathering spaces (Fellowship Hall, Officers' Room "Coffee Café", and Narthex "Lemonade and Cookies"). This will include all door handles and hard surfaces. In addition to our cleaning crew, we ask that all groups who use a classroom or gathering space, please wipe down all hard surfaces and door handles with disinfecting wipes.
- 3.** Passing the Peace in worship is a particular concern at this time, so instead of shaking hands or embracing, we ask you to offer your verbal greeting ("May the peace of Christ be with you.") accompanied by an elbow bump or smile.
- 4.** Celebrating Communion – For the time being, we still plan to celebrate the sacrament of communion on April 5, 9 and 12. Extra precautions will be taken in preparing the bread and juice and all those handling the elements in preparation and serving will be asked to wash hands and use hand sanitizer. On April 5, we plan to celebrate pew communion, in which the bread and cup are passed in the pew. Intinction has become a common practice for special services like Maundy Thursday (April 9) and Easter (April 12), but this year there will be some slight modifications. As you come forward to receive communion, only the servers will touch the wafer and it will be placed in your palm. After receiving the wafer, you will be offered an individual communion cup. We invite everyone to participate in celebrating the sacrament of communion as you are led and feel comfortable.

If you are ill and feeling under the weather, we would ask that you please stay home on Sunday morning and worship with us by listening to our live radio broadcast on 105.9 FM WLNI.

If there is anything else we can do as a church and school community to support the health and wellness of all, please don't hesitate to call the church office (434-384-6231) or email (office@fpcly.org).

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith

Peter