

Amy's Email Epistle – Friday, March 6, 2020

Friends,

There is a lot of information circulating around the Novel Coronavirus outbreak. The state of Washington has declared a state of emergency in response. It is a challenge not to be alarmed. We do not want to respond in fear and panic, but we do want to take seriously the potential threat.

I am in communication with Sandy Messick, our Regional Minister and fellow clergy in our region. Sandy has asked that we keep communication with one another active as a way of providing good information and support for decisions we each must make within our specific communities. I am also in communication with the Interfaith clergy, the City of Olympia and Thurston County. We are all working together to find the best possible ways to help make our congregation and community safe.

Here is what First Christian Church is doing at this point:

1. We are cancelling meetings that are not essential. We will be using email, zoom and phone to communicate.
2. We are doing daily sanitation of all common areas including the sanctuary, bathrooms, library, door handles and K-Hall.
3. We will have Sunday worship, but if you are not comfortable attending or if you are not feeling well please stay home. Know that you are loved and held in prayer.
4. We will be live streaming worship through Facebook Live
5. We will suspend the Passing of the Peace during worship for now.
6. We will not be passing communion or offering trays. Instead we will set up communion and offering stations.

I am have been reassured by Health officials that there is no need for panic, but it is wise to implement safety precautions. They are reinforcing the importance of frequent hand washing, staying home if you feel sick, and covering coughs.

If you are in one of the high risk categories: over 60, underlying health conditions, or pregnant please do what you need to take the best care of your needs. Staying home may be the best option.

We are a covenantal community. We care for and love one another. Whether we gather face to face, or through virtual media, social media, email, or calls we will continue to hold each other in love and in prayer.

In whichever way makes the most sense for you

We will be together on Sunday

Peace,

Amy

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"Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,
Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny."
- Mahatma Gandhi