**How we’re responding to the coronavirus threat**

*After prayer and discussion among staff and leadership, we commit to the following.*

**We will refrain from hugs and handshakes for a time.**  Regrettably, we will forgo our typical greetings for the time being.  Human contact is an important part of our life together.  A hug has the ability to convey the love of Christ.  For now, an elbow, fist bump or wave will need to suffice.  And this always remains true:  If you’re sick, stay home.

**We have careful procedures in our celebration of the Lord’s Supper.**  Pastors and Elders will wash hands incessantly just prior to their service.  We use individual communion cups.  As always, bread will be handed to you.   
  
**We will maintain an exceptionally clean building.**  We have ramped up cleaning services for our church building including deep cleaning and sanitizing of Sunday School and the Nursery.  
  
**We will continue to go to people in need.**  Your pastors will visit the sick.  Members who are medical professionals will carry out their duties. Our people will go about their God-given callings in confident faith.  
  
**We will pray AND sanitize.**  It is not either/or. It’s both/and.  We do not practice a careless piety that says “pray,” but then acts recklessly.  At the same time, we do not overestimate our precautionary health measures.  Calamity is beyond our ability to control.  The chaos of epidemic drives us to prayer and obedient trust.   
  
**We will *not*fear.**There’s a time for concern, but we refuse fear.  The stock market may crash, but we remain generous.  Sickness may spread, but we remain faithful.  Our trust in God is not dependent on circumstances.  We don’t claim faith only in times of blessing.  God gets glory when we cling to him in death’s face and at the taunt of the devil.

Christ went toward lepers and the sick, not away from them.  In plagues, Christians have been known to walk into the burning city, not away from it.  We take all necessary precautions, but refuse to abandon our neighbors in need.  The call to “love your neighbor as yourself” always incurs a level of risk.

We are closely monitoring the situations via credible resources and will continue to keep you updated.

If you don’t feel well or comfortable being at church, please utilize our YouTube channel to join us in worship.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office, 319-393-2438.