



INVITE + GROW + SERVE

March 15, 2020

My fellow WHLC members:

What was once an unknown virus occurring halfway around the world has come to Iowa. COVID-19 is very real and is now impacting our lives here in the US. Updates from governmental officials and the medical community are coming at a rapid pace. As such, your church leadership has been active in making some difficult decisions.

A group of medical professionals from our congregation was convened to discuss the situation regarding COVID-19 and how we might respond. That recommendation was shared with church council and the following actions have been taken:

- All activities of WHLC have been suspended for the remainder of the month of March. No Saturday, Sunday, or Lenten services will be held. Musical groups, bible studies, quilting, and other church groups will not meet. We will re-evaluate the situation near the end of the month and make further decisions at that time.
- Other groups using our facilities will be notified and asked not to use our facilities for the remainder of the month. That includes the Heartland Youth Choir, Chin Baptist Church, Easter Seals, Special Olympics, and other groups using our facilities. Again, this will be re-evaluated later in the month with further decisions made as events unfold.
- The church office will be open for pastoral staff. Individuals may stop into the church office if it is needed to meet with pastoral staff. Please check before you come as staff may work from home some of the time.
- Additional deep cleaning will be done to provide as clean an environment within the church as possible now and in advance of resuming church activities.
- We encourage all members to follow guidelines in the media for social distancing, self-quarantining, hand washing, etc.

These actions have been made after much sober reflection and prayer. The pastors will be looking for ways to stay connected with our congregation through the use of various mediums that may include e-mail, Facebook, phone calls, regular mail, etc. We, as members of the congregation, need to do the same. Please reach out to other members to check on them, give them support and encouragement, and offer prayers on their behalf.

It is very important for us all to stay current on our financial offerings. Though we suspend in-person worship for a couple of weeks, the operating expenses of the congregation will continue, as does our mission of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. You may email a check to the office, drop your offering by in person, or enroll in automatic giving.

These are difficult times. We must keep the faith. Read Matthew 14:22-32. When the storms rage and Peter is fearful Jesus says, "Take courage! It is I. Be not afraid". We need to trust in Him now more than ever as these current storms rage and we face an unknown situation.

The church will continue to provide regular updates. Do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. We will do our best to address them as we are able.

God's Peace and Blessings to you all,

John Ambroson, Congregation Council President