

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

(Romans 8:15-19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We are indeed witnessing a historic time here in the United States.

With the advent of the Covid-19 virus and the economic upheaval accompanying it many of us may be experiencing worry and fear. Remember Christ Jesus is with us always even to the end of the age.

That being said we need to act wisely and consider the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable among us. It is not in my nature to cancel worship services, but we find ourselves in a unique situation. Many in our congregation are at high risk if they were to contract the Corvid-19 virus. Those at low risk could unwittingly transmit the virus to our high-risk members.

With this in mind, Lawrence UMC will **cancel worship service this Sunday March 15** along with our Lenten Soup Supper. Throughout the next week the church staff and volunteers will be sanitizing our facility and we will resume our regular worship services next Sunday.

We will be monitoring the health risks to the community over the coming days to determine whether or not to postpone other events. Our food pantry and brunch will remain open during this time to serve our community. We will keep you informed all along the way.

In the meantime, here is what we can do to help each other through this crisis.

1. Pray for those infected and affected.
2. Pray for health care workers.
3. Use common sense, wash your hands, and use proper hygiene practices.
4. Keep track of your neighbors and church family. (play phone tag and make sure everyone has what they need.)
5. If people get sick please! please! please! Inform your Pastor and the prayer chain.
(231-330-8521)

Martin Luther the founder of Protestantism shared these thoughts with his congregation in the midst of an outbreak of the Plague in Wittenberg Germany.

“I shall ask God to mercifully protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid persons or places where my presence is not needed in order to become contaminated and thus per chance infect and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God shall wish to take me, He shall surely find me, and I have done what He has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, I shall not avoid place or person but shall go freely.”

Blessings

Pastor Wayne