March 6, 2020

Grace and peace!

“Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.” (3 John 1:2)

By now I’m sure you are aware of the 132 persons across 16 states of our country who are known to be infected with the Coronavirus. This emerging and evolving situation has the world on high alert. Please know that the Health Ministry, Joint Board and I, share in the concern about the spread of the Coronavirus. Towards that end, MCBC is following all recommendations from The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Health Department on how to prevent the spread of the virus here at MCBC.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that the following strategies for preventing the spread of the Coronavirus:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick. If your illness has flu-like symptoms, please consult your doctor prior to returning to work, school, or church.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using household cleaning sprays or wipes.
- Wear a Center for Disease Control (CDC) approved face mask when sick. Healthy individuals do not need to wear mask.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the restroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

For more information about the virus or preventative measures, please go to https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

We are implementing the following to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus:

- Although we will not suspend our “Passing of the Peace”, I ask that you wave hello and greet members with a warm smile, laugh, kind words, or a cultural traditional “head nod” during our worship services.
- We will not hold hands at the end of the pastoral prayer.
- We will not hold hands during congregational prayer or the closing prayer of our Bible Studies.

Parents and guardians, please follow all directions from our Children and Youth Leaders. Your child may be asked to wash their hands. So please do not be offended. It is not suggestive of poor hygiene. It is however the best preventive method.

Please note that our Environmental Services Staff is disinfecting the church daily. Special attention is being given to our high volume/traffic areas for weekend worship services. Access to these areas may be limited at times in an effort to keep them clean.

I encourage you to wash your hands while you are in the restrooms. There are hand sanitizer stations around the church, please utilize them.

I encourage you to utilize electronic giving as much as possible. This is a safe and secure way to give at MCBC and one that minimizes the handling of paper currency thus preventing the possible spread of germs.

If you or your child contracts the Coronavirus or its symptoms, please do not come to the church during this time.

Finally, I remind you that as people of faith we pray and don’t panic. We are a praying people and I ask you to join in Intercessory Prayer in specifically praying for the termination of this Coronavirus. In addition, please pray for victims and their families.

At this point, the Coronavirus is not a pandemic, and we are not anxious or panicked. I just want to assure you of the measures we are taking to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus at MCBC and we hope you will utilize this information in your homes and community.

“Praise the Lord, o my soul, and forget not all His benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.” (Psalm 103:2-3)

“One Church Working Together”

Dr. Donald D. Moore, Pastor