

March 12, 2020

Dear guests and members of Sunnyside Wesleyan Church,

Here at Sunnyside we strive to be a healthy place – relationally, spiritually and, when the need arises as it has lately, physically. In light of the emergence of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), I'm writing to tell you that we're taking proactive steps to help prevent the virus's spread in this place.

We do so in a spirit of wisdom and pragmatism – and remaining completely in line with proactive directives of Health Canada and its Public Health Agency of Canada.

At this moment, the Public Health Agency of Canada assesses the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as **low** for the general population in Canada. Realistically though, this could change quickly.

Please keep in mind that the transmission of COVID-19 may occur before people have symptoms. Certain groups are at greater risk than others and should thus be extra attendant to measures of prevention. These include:

- *those aged 65 and over*
- *those with compromised immune systems*
- *those with underlying medical conditions*

#### **So, what are we to do in the interest of preventing the spread of COVID-19?**

- *Please stay home if you are sick. If you're feeling a sense of isolation at home and would welcome phone contact, please notify the church [office@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:office@sunnysidechurch.ca) and a staff member or member of the congregation will call.*
- *Before Sunday worship gatherings, please wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water in the upstairs coffee nook or downstairs bathrooms or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol before entering the service. Please assist your children to do the same.*

#### **Other preventative measures will include:**

- *During Sunday worship gatherings **the bulletin will only be posted online**. Bulletins are available online at [www.sunnysidechurch.ca](http://www.sunnysidechurch.ca) under the 'Publications' tab. Connection cards are in the pews. Individuals may put them in the lobby communication box.*
- *Welcomers will greet you verbally rather than with a handshake. Similarly, the congregation is encouraged to greet people verbally and refrain from handshakes during the congregational greeting time. Since it's also advised that people cough into their elbows, it may be best to avoid 'elbow bumps' as an alternate greeting for the time being.*
- *When in a public setting, such as attending church, you are advised and strongly encouraged to practice personal protective measures (e.g., frequent hand hygiene, avoiding touching eyes/nose/mouth). Please practice hand hygiene and help your children do the same, washing hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.*

- *The offering plate will be on the Communion table at the front of the church. You may place your offerings in it after the service. This is a great time to ensure uninterrupted giving patterns. The Giving button on our website home page is also available to facilitate easy, consistent support on-line.*

**During Communion:**

- *We encourage you to freely choose whether you are comfortable receiving Communion.*
- *As usual, single use cups of grape juice will be used, and taken by each individual member of the congregation.*
- *There will be small waste baskets at either end of the altar rails in which to dispose them.*
- *Pastor(s) officiating Communion will sanitize hands and wear a serving glove to distribute the bread to each individual member.*

**Other measures as required:**

Sunnyside worship gatherings and other small group gatherings will only be cancelled if mandated by Health Canada to do so, in which case:

- *We will share with all congregants information on how to download and use the on-line Zoom application on your mobile device or computer.*
- *A **Zoom** link for 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday service will be sent to members and households and a worship 'gathering' with readings, worship music, a small talk, and corporate prayer will happen through **Zoom** online or by phone.*
- *Pastoral care and other special urgent measures of care as required may be provided by phone or via **Zoom**. Members of the congregation are encouraged to reach out to the church office or directly to pastoral staff if in need.*

As a community of faith, we can and should pray for one another and for our world during this time of concern and unease over the COVID-19 virus. As always, we look to the Lord for strength, redemption and comfort.

Peace of Christ,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg