



“A dynamic faith Community growing in hope, love and service”

Dear Avenue Family and Friends,

March 12, 2020

As the news of Corona Virus (COVID-19) continues to dominate the news, and we are living into the challenges that it presents to us as individuals and as a community. The purpose of this letter is to share some best practices to minimize the risks presented by the virus.

The best way to prevent the spread of any virus is to properly wash your hands throughout the day in soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If you are using hand sanitizer, the Center for Disease Control recommends that you allow 10 seconds for the sanitizer to dry before touching another surface. We would encourage you to wash or sanitize your hands whenever you come in or leave Avenue Church. There are limited amounts of hand sanitizer throughout the building. Please use appropriate amounts and not be wasteful. When you need to cough or sneeze, do so into your sleeve or arm instead of your hands. If you are feeling sick with cold/flu-like symptoms or have a fever of 100 degrees or above, we encourage you to remain at home rather than risk spreading your illness. As always, if you do not feel comfortable attending worship because of the risk, please stay home.

To be diligent in our response to Covid-19, we are temporarily instructing our greeters and ushers to forego shaking hands or giving hugs before service. We would encourage everyone to limit personal contact during this time.

Holy Communion is a high point of our worship services as we encounter the presence of Christ through the bread and the fruit of the vine. We will do all we can to continue serving Communion. Communion is prepared by stewards wearing medical grade gloves. Our Pastors and Communion Assistants sanitize their hands before serving Communion. Because our Pastors hand you the bread, their sanitized hands are the only hands touching the bread. We do ask that each person be cautious in dipping the bread into the cup so as not to allow their fingers to get into the grape juice (this is good practice any time at Communion!). If the outbreak affects our community more, we may move to a single-serve option to limit the possibility of contamination as well as considering other safety measures for the good of our community.

As new information becomes available to us or if we need to communicate additional changes, we will utilize all our resources to do so. These resources include:

- Email Blast (if we don't have your email, you can write it on the registration pad)
- Facebook Updates (Feel free to like our page)
- Sunday Morning Announcements
- Website Updates

We will continue to listen to our local health officials from within and outside of our congregation, as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institute of Health (NIH) for up-to-date information, guidance, and recommendations.

Thank you for being part of the Avenue family! We are doing our very best to keep our church family and all who use the building safe, healthy, and secure. If you have questions, please contact the church office (302.422.8111) or email us at churchoffice@avenueumc.com.

Grace and Peace,

Handwritten signature of Steve LaMotte in blue ink.

Steve LaMotte

Handwritten signature of Wendy Butterworth in blue ink.

Wendy Butterworth

Handwritten signature of Kevin B. Chamberlain in blue ink.

Kevin B. Chamberlain

Handwritten signature of Will Leister in blue ink.

Will Leister