

## **SECOND CHURCH AND THE CORONAVIRUS**

All of us are keenly aware of the growing concern of the novel coronavirus that is spreading across the country.

We want you to know what we are doing here at Second Church to prepare for a more serious outbreak should it come. To learn the preparations, click [HERE](#):

- We are reading the information provided by the CDC, the City of Newton, and the Southern New England Conference daily.
- We have met with the leaders of the Clearway School, Dorshei Tzedek, and the Nursery School so that we can coordinate any plans for closing the building, should it become necessary.
- We have asked our cleaning services to be especially attentive to disinfecting all common areas, with special attention to railings, doorknobs, the kitchen and bathrooms.
- We encourage you to refrain from physical contact here at church, including hugs and handshakes. This applies to Passing the Peace and the coffee hour especially.
- We are updating our email contact lists so that we can be in touch with you if we need to cancel any gathering, including worship. Carla and Andrus will prepare worship-at-home resources should we need to cancel worship because of an epidemic.
- We are using disposable paper products for coffee hours and the upcoming pot-luck, and the Maundy Thursday soup supper. We will use disposable, individual cups for communion for the next several months. If you hate paper coffee cups, bring your mug from home!
- We have placed hand-sanitizer in every pew and we are assuring that the bathrooms are always stocked with hand soap.

What YOU can do:

- Try not to spread panic or misinformation or stigmatizing.
- Wash your hands often and for longer periods of time (the CDC recommends 20 seconds – twice through the Happy Birthday song).
- Greet one another with eye contact and smiles.
- Read the messages we send out electronically.
- Please stay home if you are sick. This virus is stealthy and extremely contagious.
- Check in with one another – who do you know who is vulnerable to becoming sick? Who lives alone? Call that person.

We are all vulnerable to illness – it's part of being human – but when we can care for ourselves and one another by taking appropriate cautionary measures, certainly we should. That's part of being human, too.