

Coronavirus Update

Greetings in the name of the Lord! Last week, in my newsletter article, I promised all of you that I would be closely monitoring how coronavirus affects our community, and if we needed to make any changes in our worship practices, I would make what I thought were appropriate recommendations at that time.

As of this week, the coronavirus outbreak has spread to our state and community. While I am only aware of one person in our community who has been infected by coronavirus, in light of this change I am making the following recommendations for our worship out of an abundance of caution.

- I think it is now appropriate to suspend the practice of shaking hands during worship until further notice.
- We have **no plans to cancel worship** at any time in the future. However, during our Session meeting next Monday, I expect that we will be making some plans in case we have to cancel worship in the event that this outbreak should become a lot worse. I know that “a lot worse” is not very precise language, but as we continue monitoring this situation, I trust that we will all know when and if this time has come.
- As I stated last week, if you are feeling sick in any way, please avoid coming to church on Sunday. We love you and we miss you when you are not here, but we also know that your sickness is only temporary and we will see you when you feel better.
- As I also stated last week, please remember to wash your hands as frequently as possible, or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.

Finally, brothers and sisters in Christ, I once again ask you to remember the bible tells us that “there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear.” (First John 4:18) We should not live in fear as God’s people, but being fearless does not mean throwing caution to the wind. Let us be cautious, but let us also put our trust in God who cares for us and loves us all.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Rich