



March 14, 2020

Grace and truth,

I am writing today, March 14, 2020, on behalf of your Leadership Team who discussed coronavirus and COVID-19 concerns at our monthly meeting two nights ago. As Lead Pastor of Cannon Beach Community Church, I ask you to be in prayer for God's healing grace to be at work in our world related to COVID-19 (coronavirus), and to update you about steps we are taking this Sunday, regarding protecting vulnerable people, and caring for our health and the health of our community.

Regarding this coming Sunday, March 15, we hold worship at our three Sunday Worship Services (9am, 11am, and 6pm) in the sanctuary. Considering the advice of the CDC, we also encourage "people who at higher risk to avoid crowds," and thus for anyone who is at higher risk to consider worshipping from home this Sunday and the next few Sundays. We will record each of our Sunday services and make them available on our church website each Sunday. We are also cancelling our Community Irish Brunch for tomorrow, Sunday, March 15, 10am, but will still be serving coffee and tea during Hospitality Hour at 10am.

As many of you know, I addressed people at our Worship Services last Sunday, March 8, 2020, encouraging us all to practice three basic practices to keep ourselves and others healthy.

- 1) Let's wash our hands often, for 20 seconds with soap and water (we all sang the Doxology together while practicing washing our hands).
- 2) When we meet each other, we give each other the freedom not to shake hands, but to greet one another with an elbow or fist bump, a friendly smile or head nod.
- 3) If we feel any illness symptoms, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, we agreed to stay home.

To date, there has not been a single confirmed case of COVID-19 in Clatsop County. Because of the rapid spread of this disease in other parts of the Northwest, in our nation and around the world, we are considering further steps to protect ourselves and others, to help slow the spread of this virus, and to act with Christ's compassion on behalf of the most vulnerable in our community.

According to the CDC, the most vulnerable for coronavirus/COVID-19 include "older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes. This population seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. People who are at higher risk are encouraged to avoid crowds as much as possible."

According to the CDC, "for most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus." Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their age, race, or ethnicity. We are a people called to love Christ, and love others. Our vision is to know Christ, grow in Christ together, and go with Christ into our community and world. We live by faith not by fear. Our hearts are compelled by the love of Christ, not by fear of disease. Let's be in prayer together asking our Lord and Savior to bring His healing grace to this world, to our nation, and to our community.

For more information, see Oregon Health Authority or CDC Websites:

- <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/emerging-respiratory-infections.aspx>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>

May Jesus Christ be glorified in all we do and say as we continue to pray for our community, state, nation and world with the powerful grace and truth of our Lord,

David Robinson, Lead Pastor