

Dear Faith Church,

Worship is essential for human flourishing. For one thing, we are all worshiping something all the time. The idolatries that fester, even in a well-disciplined Christian heart, when we are confronted with nonstop news of terror and rumors, can only really be put to rest when we gather with others to “set forth God’s praise, hear his Holy Word, and ask, for ourselves and others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation” (The Book of Common Prayer).

After discussions with several of our church officers, several local church leaders, and Chris Vogel from the PCA, the leadership team here at Faith would like to share the following information as to our service tomorrow (March 15<sup>th</sup>) and continuing ministries beginning this coming Wednesday (March 18<sup>th</sup>):

- We ask that all entering of the building be limited to the Fellowship Hall doors (west) entry doors.
- We ask that you wash your hands prior to coming to church and that you use the disinfectant provided at the door.
- We also ask that you also refrain from any hand shaking or other forms of physical contact...a friendly head nod or wave in its place is welcome
- If you do not use the on-line giving (if not, now would be a great time to start this practice) we ask that you place your offering in the plates provided at the back of church...we will not be passing the offering baskets.
- Through recommendations from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) We ask that if you are ill (coughing, cold, flu, fever) or meet any of the following conditions that you consider not attending the service.
  1. Age 65 or older.
  2. Heart Disease History
  3. Lung Disease (like asthma)
  4. Cancer
  5. Diabetes
  6. Pregnant
- If you wish a visit from one of your Elders during the week, please notify Debbie in the office or Jim Meinen
- We will not be having breakfast before the service nor will there be any food during the fellowship time.
- Sunday School will be as normal this week however we will be reviewing this practice as we move forward.
- In keeping with past practice, whenever the Cedar Grove Belgium Schools are not in session, we will also not hold after school activities. Therefore, beginning this Wednesday we will not be having Adventure Island or Connect

Please continue to pray for wisdom and guidance on these matters and feel free to share any thoughts you have with your leadership and may we all continue to remember that the physical means of grace through communion and baptism, and the great comfort of person-to-person community at church, are vitally important. As long as a non-infected congregation and leader exist with access to a space where infection risk can be managed, church members should take every possible measure to maintain regular assembly together.

Do not neglect the fellowship of believers. This is true above all of worship. “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:24–25). The author of these words, who lived in a world that knew the danger of plagues very well (though not the exact mechanism), who urged his congregation to meet even when they expected an imminent Day of Judgment, would hardly have said that we ought to stop meeting for worship under the conditions of an infectious disease.

Please check your emails, and Faith Church’s Facebook page for continued updates.

Thanks

Faith Reformed Officers