

March 13, 2020

The Virus

It's a challenging time. As I'm writing this the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus a pandemic because the virus has reached over 112 countries. We now have a few cases in Minnesota. I have heard everything from "pretend it's not happening" to "cancel everything." So how do we respond? I know for certain that panic is never helpful, nor is living out of fear. But we do want to be responsible and cautious and use common sense.

In this time of uncertainty, please know that the leaders of this church are monitoring the situation daily. There may be protocols that we will need to follow coming from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). On our website we have information from the CDC, WHO and the UCC. We are taking their recommendations seriously.

We are asking everyone to take reasonable precautions when coming to church. Obviously, please do not come if you are sick or have been exposed to people who are sick. Use our hand-sanitizing stations upon entering, wash your hands frequently and, in the sanctuary and elsewhere, give people space.

If you need permission to stay home during this time, you have it! But please stay engaged and connected to the church through social media and the website. We are working on getting the capability to livestream our worship services as soon as we can.

The poet Rilke wrote this about a particular people who were struggling, "[They] do not conceive of God as a mighty enthroned power who lifts man's burdens, but rather a protecting nearness that does not permit final destruction."

Let us lean into God, that "protecting nearness," and remember that we have each other for support as we navigate this time. Bless you!

Paula