



First Wesleyan Church
1700 S Market St
Wichita, KS 67211

March 12, 2020

Preparation and Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

These simple steps will be followed by our church in preparedness and response should there be reported cases of the coronavirus in our surrounding area:

- **Prevention:** Prevention is vital with any virus, such as influenza or coronavirus, so it is important to protect yourself and take measures against spreading it to others by following the guidelines below:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.
 - Get a flu shot if you haven't already.
 - Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- **If you are sick:** We encourage all congregants, staff, and ministry leaders to not attend church services or activities if they have any flu-like or cold-like symptoms or someone in their household has these symptoms.
 - Staff are encouraged to follow flexible sick leave procedures or telework if they are sick or members of their household are sick.
 - Ministry leaders are encouraged to find a replacement to lead their ministry or small group or cancel the activity.
 - If you have symptoms of the virus, consult with your health care provider on when it is safe to leave isolation and return to normal activities outside the home.
- **Sunday church services/activities:** we will continue to hold regular Sunday gatherings and activities unless advised otherwise by the local health department officials or if our leadership deems the illness activity has dramatically impacted our ability to provide such gatherings and activities.
 - Per usual, our messages will continue to be available online for those who have concerns about being in public or are ill. Go to www.fwcwichita.org/messages to listen to Sunday messages. These are typically uploaded and available Monday afternoon.
 - There will be bottles of hand sanitizer at church entrances. All congregants will be encouraged to sanitize their hands when entering the church.
 - Congregants are also discouraged from hand shaking, hugging, and other activities that may spread the virus.

(At any time we may go digital, reduce, postpone or cancel activities based upon illness activity in the area.)

- Please stay tuned to church emails, and our FB and Instagram pages for updates.

- **Tithes and offerings:** The church has activities, payroll and ministries locally and around the world that are dependent upon consistent giving. An outbreak of disease in our area could last several weeks with reduced attendance to church activities. We encourage that our congregation continue to graciously give of their tithes and offerings to sustain the mission of the church and the functions of our budget.
 - During the time of offering in church services, we will move to a format of leaving your tithes and offerings at key locations instead of passing around offering baskets.
 - Other ways to give:
 - Online: Visit www.fwcwichita.org/online-giving
 - Mail checks to 1700 S Market St, Wichita, KS 67211

- **Communion:** If communion is offered during our worship gathering we will use a safe and different format of distribution that is direct to the congregant and minimizes any contact with the communion elements and trays.

- **Facility cleaning:** Increased daily disinfection of our facilities, especially contact points throughout our building, will be followed per CDC guidelines. The availability of hand sanitizers and Kleenex will be extended throughout our facilities.

- **Congregational care:** If people in our church are in need of basic help, food or supplies due to the spread of this illness, please contact our church at 316-265-8500 or email us at office@fwcwichita.org, we would love to assist you and pray for you in any way that we can.

- **For more information about COVID-19:** Go the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> and be informed.

- **Prayer:** We encourage all of our church to pray for the end of this disease and for healing for those who have become ill. Stay confident in God's hand on our world and the boldness of the church and the gospel during difficult times. To help us know who to be praying for specifically, please share your prayer requests with us by calling, messaging us on FB or Instagram, visiting our website and filling out the contact form, by filling out our electronic connection card available here: www.fwcwichita.org/connection-card

- **Questions?** Contact us at office@fwcwichita.org or call at 316-265-8500, or by messaging us through FB or Instagram direct messaging.