

March 23, 2020

Dear church family,

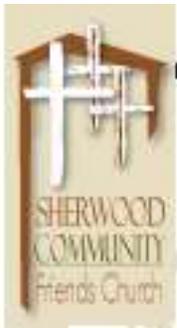
In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is rapidly changing, impacting communities, churches and businesses profoundly. We recognize that many of you are facing an imminent decrease in your finances and ability to live a “normal” life, not to mention, some may even be experiencing the dreaded virus. The following provides necessary information so that you can plan accordingly, everything from attending worship separately, shopping for basic needs, and social distancing in a healthy and appropriate way.

Don Powers, our Clerk of Elders and a Biologist at George Fox University, received the following post from a colleague and with permission passes it along: *Here's some useful information about COVID-19. My friend went to a Bible study on March 3. (She did not know that several there would later test positive for the virus.) On March 5, she developed a minor cough that remained minor until March 13 when she developed a 102.4 fever and had to go to the hospital. This means that for a week, she did not know she had the virus, and she was out and about. And the people in the group did not know they were carriers when they met as a group. Vigilance! Stay home! What seems safe to do might not be.*

We have just learned that Governor Brown has issued a “**Stay at Home (to the maximum extent possible)**” order to all Oregonians. There are very specific exceptions and it is recommended to you check often the State of Oregon [COVID-19 response](#). In addition, it is advisable that you check in regularly with the [CDC's latest CV-19 information](#). **At the very least, please maintain social-distancing of at least 6-feet with anyone not in your immediate household, use 65-70% alc. hand-sanitizer liberally and often, wipe off surfaces with disinfecting wipes before and after use.**

Based on the ever-changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic, **we are therefore suspending all on-site worship services indefinitely (following the *current* Oregon state-wide “Stay at Home” edict).** However, as you know, we have successfully navigated a number of online options and will continue to provide **Live Streaming** worship services via our church FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/sherwoodcommunityfriends/>). We will also post the service to our church's website each Sunday by NOON. (NOTE: We are working on placing the service on other platforms such as: Instagram, Twitter, Church Online, etc. Please continue to bear with us as we learn how to use these new-to-us tools so as to better keep you informed.)

As per the “Weekend Outlook” email message from last Friday, we will continue to update this “COVID-19 Cancellations & Protocols” page as necessary every Monday morning. In addition, we will send out a church-family specific “Sunday Recap” on Monday mornings.



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A Caring Church For A Growing Community

Even with a “Stay at Home” proclamation, the church office will remain open weekdays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm unless we receive specific and strict orders to close. (NOTE: Priscilla is the only one in the building and is taking very careful precautions regularly using hand-sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.) Pastor Rich will continue to be available for virtual-visitation and virtual-pastoral care as requested or needed. We do encourage Small Groups/Bible Studies to cease meeting in person but to continue to meet via video conferencing apps such as Zoom, Skype, FaceTime (IOS) or Google Hangouts, etc. **It is good to be with one another, open the Word of God, and pray together, but as we are learning in a very extraordinary way, the “church” is the people, not a place... we can meet virtually and still be the Church visible to this world.**

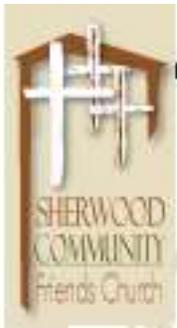


Please continue to pray for wisdom for those making decisions at all levels of society. And please continue to pray for our church family. And especially pray for those who are sick and for those who are afraid. And remember this verse from God’s Holy Word: *“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).*

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

Peace & Grace,

Rich Miller
Senior Pastor



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