

A WORD ON CORONAVIRUS FROM 12STONE

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."

*- Philippians 4:6-7
(The Message)*

We're all aware of the evolving situation with COVID-19 around the world. And, we're aware that our response as a church is likely on your mind.

HERE'S WHAT WE'RE DOING AS A CHURCH

1. **TRUSTING GOD:** Viral disease is a fact of biological existence and part of creation. Keeping perspective and not panicking apply here, just as they do for all risks we face as creatures in a finite world. No matter how dire circumstances get, the Lord remains our refuge and strength, "an ever-present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1). To trust in the Lord amid trouble is to experience and bear witness to the power of Christ.

2. **PRAYING:** We must pray for the sick and the scared, for public health officials, for doctors and nurses, for researchers, and for caregivers. As Christians, we believe prayer has power, so we seek help from the Lord.
3. **12STONE IS GOING ONLINE.** Find latest updates, online resources, and our schedule [HERE](#)
4. **STAYING INFORMED:** The media is aflame with daily updates and it's impossible to read, absorb and respond to every news report, Tweet, or latest rumor. We're following a reliable list of information for educational, planning and management purposes.
 - a. **CDC on COVID-19:** The US Center for Disease Control's up-to-date resources on coronavirus.
 - b. **CDC Resources for Community and Faith-Based Organizations:** The CDC has also created resources specifically for faith-based organizations to respond to influenza pandemic, which are applicable in this situation. As a church, we're implementing this guidance.
 - c. **Managing Anxiety Around Coronavirus Coverage:** The American Psychological Association created this resource to help manage anxiety around coverage of COVID-19.
 - d. **Addressing Mental Health Issues:** This resource from the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Network provides guidelines for addressing mental health issues that may arise, and offers advice for messaging, including among children, older adults, people with disabilities, and those in quarantine.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

1. Pray for our community and those directly affected by COVID-19. Pray for the health care workers that are treating the sick and those public health administrators making difficult decisions. Pray that God would protect our community from further spread of the virus.
2. Reflect Christ. In these anxious days, the church (all of us) can shine as a light of hope, care, faith, patience and prudence. We can demonstrate for the world how our faith provides true assurance against worry and fear.
3. Practice recommended personal hygiene. Wash your hands frequently. Avoid contact with the sick. Stay home if you're sick and enjoy our [online resources](#).
4. Coronavirus Project: Click [HERE](#) to see a list of food and household items you can drop off at your campus to meet the needs of our community.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body. . . . Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable

than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

*- Matthew 6:25–27
(New International Version)*

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