

Preparedness Plan For COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

First United Methodist Church of Port St. Joe

Level 1—Watchful Preparation (When there is no evidence of the virus in the community)

1. Encourage the congregation to not be afraid by letting them know that the church is working on a plan and that we will stay up to date on the situation. If there is a crisis, the church will be there for its members and our community. We will get through it together with the help of God by offering the healing ministry of Jesus to our community.
2. Follow updates from the Center for Disease Control and the County Department of Health. Gather relevant phone numbers for Emergency management.
3. Remind people to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60-95% alcohol.
4. Encourage members to review recommendations from the CDC regarding preparation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html>
5. Remind sick people to stay home and those who are immunocompromised to talk with their doctor.
6. Alert Preschool and Community Thrift store/mission to be watchful and think through preparation.
7. Alert finance team to make a plan if giving is temporarily decreased due to market volatility.
8. Alert staff to make a plan for working from home, if necessary.

9. Alert staff to move forward with plans for maintaining contact with our congregation through email, Church Community Builder, and mass email tools (e.g. Constant Contact, Mail Chimp)

Level 2— Disease Prevention (For when COVID-19 is suspected to be in the community)

1. Encourage people to avoid contact by not shaking hands or passing the peace.
2. Offer “communion in one kind” by just offering the bread and not participating in intinction (dipping in the cup). This practice has been deemed valid by church tradition.
3. Remind people that they can participate either by attending them “live” through Facebook Live or from the service archive at their convenience. Giving and leaving comments, need requests, or prayer requests can happen on-line as well.
4. Have the pastoral care team offer pastoral care through phone calls and cards, with minimum personal contact. No persons over 60 should have any pastoral care contact.
5. Have finance team delay as many expenses possible.

Level 3— Emergency Management (COVID-19 sends the community into emergency mode with many people in quarantine)

1. Follow the school schedule and/or the Local Health Department for church closure.
2. Livecast all services, and offer other “live” offerings for Bible Studies. Small groups and church business meeting will be carried out on Zoom or other platform.
3. Let people know if they have any needs to call or email the church office, and we will do our best to work with local authorities to meet

their needs.

4. Monitor the church phone and mobilize teams to assist the Health Department as needed delivering food and medicine. Keep a list of all infected people and call to monitor their progress.
5. Pastoral Care team offers no personal contact but continues support in other ways. Clergy team only make visits to hospitals following emergency pastoral care protocols of the hospital at their own risk in consultation with their doctor.
6. Maintain a ministry of prayer for all affected
7. Have finance team move into conservation mode only spending money on necessities as prioritized.