

Dear WFMC Family,

As you've likely seen or heard, the circumstances and public responses regarding the COVID-19 virus are changing rapidly...and here in the US, largely not for the better. We are keeping up with the conversation, taking cues from medical professionals, and trying to respond in ways that are Christ-like in both compassion and courage. I'll communicate regularly through the church e-chain and by posting to the banner at the top of the wfmc homepage (wilmorefmc.org) so keep your eyes peeled for updates.

For a global perspective, please consult the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

For assessments closer to home, consult [Kentucky Health and Family Services site](https://www.ky.gov), or your county health department web site: [Jessamine County](https://www.jessaminecounty.com) [Fayette County](https://www.fayettecounty.com) [Woodford County](https://www.woodfordcounty.com)

Presently, we do plan to meet for our normal Sunday schedule of services and events/groups/rehearsals this Sunday and for the foreseeable future, while taking these common-sense steps:

1. In the interest of stopping the spread of sickness (of any kind, really) and for the pro-active protection of the vulnerable, if you or a family member are feeling ill or have a weakened immune system or health concerns...and especially if you are over 60 years old, please stay at home and avoid crowds in these days.
2. We are making efforts to sanitize high-contact surfaces around the campus. (Consider doing the same in your home, and make extra efforts toward hand-washing/hand-sanitizing.)

The worship services themselves will be changed in the following ways:

1. We will forgo the normal worship service greeting time. Please avoid initiating handshakes, which also gives others the freedom to avoid them as well.
2. We will not be receiving the elements of Holy Communion for the next couple weeks.
3. We will not pass offering plates in the services. Instead, we will have plates at the rear of the sanctuary at the close of the services. Of course, you can always give through electronic means: <http://wilmorefmc.org/give/>

Again, the situation is changing daily, but for now, this seems to be the prudent course of action.

Please pray for those already around the globe who are affected by the disease, those quarantined, and those affected by travel restrictions and closed schools, etc. Please also pray for those leaders charged with combating the spread of the disease.

Should cases come to our county/parish and more aggressive quarantines be necessary, please have in mind persons in your neighborhood for whom you might take responsibility...and especially the elderly and sick and those who are alone. If you need assistance, contact the church office. As a church, we will be looking for tangible ways to help and serve our communities.

Above all, let's offer our neighbors an attitude of peace, as Christ's peace rules in our hearts. As a letter from our bishops says, "we live neither by hysteria nor cynicism."

Blessings all, and more to come.

Pastor Daryl