

Covid-19, March 19, 2020

Dear WFMC Family,

First, a few encouraging words today:

- This from Julie Jobryce:

*I wanted to let you know of something amazing that is happening right here in...Wilmore. People from all over Jessamine and Fayette Counties are flocking to our town, and Fitches IGA...the store that was once barely surviving is currently thriving. One woman called and said, "My daughter in Chicago told me you have milk and meat. Is that true?" And yes, it was!*

*Why are all these people coming to Wilmore and to Fitches?*

*1) Leonard Fitch has gone out of his way to find sources for milk, eggs, fresh meat, fruit and vegetables, and has brought the food to town by any means possible to ensure that it is available.*

*2) When our extra truck of products arrive on Tuesday, eight community volunteers came and help to stock the shelves so we could have merchandise available to customers as quickly as possible. What would have taken a day and a half for our small staff was accomplished in less than 3 hours!*

*3) Our meat department is working long, tiring days cutting meat as quickly as possible to get it in the hands of customers.*

*4) We currently have a list of over 25 volunteers waiting to be connected with "at risk" people to help with shopping and delivery. (This resource is available to anyone, so if you are aware of a need please let us know.)*

*5) We continue to package and deliver meals to shut-ins on a daily basis. This is done at no additional cost for the delivery service. (If you know anyone who might benefit from this service, please let me know and I can provide more information.)*

*6) We continue to sell things at the same price, unless a price increase is absolutely necessary. A number of the items that have been brought into the store from outside sources are actually being sold at or even below cost so that we are not taking advantage of the situation. Gratefully, the additional sales occurring are helping to defray this loss.*

*So, you can see that even in the midst of this terrible situation, God is at work. He is faithful. The humble service of His servant, Leonard, is helping people find the things they need. I am blessed to work for a man who puts the needs of his community before his own.*

- Our Bible Quizzers are trying their first-ever video quiz practice!
- Watch for a new roadside banner to be placed in front of our church – one side saying, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him... ~ Romans 15:13,” and the other side saying, “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. ~ 1 Peter 5:7” Pray it serves our community as a reminder of God’s love and a proclamation of hope.
- We have initiated some increased care and connection efforts, WFMC member to member, especially out of concern for the most physically vulnerable and for those who are alone and isolated.

- In response to the expressed need, our Board of Administration has approved allowing Thomson Hood Veterans' Center to use the Building B nursery area of our facility for child care (20 or so children) so their workers can come to work. (It must be administrated and staffed entirely by THVC volunteers.) A great use of this space in these days!
- WFMC has a number of volunteers standing by to help meet the needs of those who are especially vulnerable. If you have a need for groceries, important errands, etc. please contact the church office.
- If you have a prayer request (or an encouraging word) to be shared with the church family, please call or e-mail the church office.
- If you are struggling financially because of temporary job loss, contact one of the pastors or the church office.

A helpful word from Martin Luther, who wrote nearly 500 years ago about responding to pandemics. When he was confronted by questions about how to respond to The Black Death plague, he responded in words that should serve to inform our approach to the pandemic crisis our nation and the world is now facing today.

In a letter to Rev. Dr. John Hess, found in Luther's Works, Volume 43 p. 132, as "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague," Luther writes:

*"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."*

Blessings All,

Pastor Daryl