

## WFMC Covid-19 Update

March 26, 2020

Pastor Daryl

### **The Days Ahead**

I think we're getting mixed signals about what's to come, but my assessment is that we'll be in the position we're in for at least another month or more. And we'll likely have to face the fact that some things will never be the same. At the same time, there will be opportunity for great improvement in some areas of life. Life is change, and change is life.

Curt Caldwell came into the office the other day, and when I said to him, "Strange days, aren't they?" he simply replied, "World War 2...this is very much what life was like during the war."

### **Communication**

For the foreseeable future, the office will continue to send the "Prayer Notes and News" Monday through Friday through the e-chain. From now on, my intention is to send a "Covid-19 Update" on Wednesdays and Saturdays, with Saturdays including the link for Sunday's YouTube worship service and any other updates regarding classes, resources, etc.

Of course, all that information will be supplied on the church web site as well. You can subscribe to the web site news feed and receive these same updates.

I've asked several in our church to video record some of their thoughts regarding these days to share with the church family – think "evening worship." Those will be developed and broadcast in the coming days too.

### **Resources**

Several ABF classes are moving to on-line format using a variety of video software. Though not ideal, they do work very well for communication and connection. So far, Café Berea and Explorers have opened their classes to any who would like to join, and other classes are planning to make this jump.

Links to these classes and resources accompanying them will be sent in Saturday's update.

I find, and you probably do too, that this experience is something of a test for many people who have never really had to endure hardship. Of course for those who have lived through war, poverty, grief, or for those who live alone under normal conditions...to them, this is not as devastating as all that. Nevertheless, the role of the body of Christ is to comfort, heal, and console while always pointing people to the bigger picture and our greater Savior. So thank you to you who are caring, praying, creating, adapting, adjusting, and seeing new opportunities and invitations from the Lord in this season.

You will notice that the adrenaline of the past 10 days will probably be wearing off this week, and the reality that this is not something that will disappear in a week or two will begin to settle. With that in mind, here are a couple suggestions in seizing the opportunities to...

#### 1. ...rest.

That may sound odd, since many of our schedules have likely become much clearer than normal, but rest is not the same as doing nothing/wondering what to do. Take some time to think and breathe and sleep and exercise. The fact is, the sort of tension that surrounds events like this can be really difficult. We need to find ways to diminish the tension that comes with all this unknown. One way is to encourage limiting how much news and social media you watch. Take time to disconnect.

#### 2. ...simplify.

With so much of our world being dismantled, why not see this as an invitation to simplify? Last week there was a post that read, "I had no idea how much I'd be giving up for Lent." This could be just the spiritual invitation we need to really

let go of things that don't matter and hold on to things that really do. Could it be that the pruning we're experiencing will bring greater fruit?

3...understand grief.

As a culture, we are in the midst of a season of grief, which takes many forms: anger, depression, sadness, denial, bargaining with God, etc. As we all grieve things that are lost, let's extend the grace of Jesus to one another.

4...connect.

We cannot visit each other physically, but we can write notes, call, text, e-mail, etc. Let's invest more time in connecting with others, and re-connecting with those closest to us from whom busy-ness has created distance.

5...pray.

There are many things we cannot do in these days, but one thing we can do is pray. Pray for the sick. Pray for those who care for the sick. Pray for those who are healthy to not get sick. Pray for those who need work. Pray for those who are alone and feel the isolation more acutely. Pray for those who are grieving. Pray for local businesses who are feeling the pinch, financially. Pray for our leaders to have divine foresight and wisdom in handling these days.

6...support.

As best you can, make it a point to support our local businesses and especially our eateries when you want to eat "out." They are all struggling to stay in business in our small town(s), but most are offering take-out.

7...encourage.

Choose to be an encourager. There's plenty of bad news out there. Bring some good news to someone today.