

WFMC Update, March 16, 2020

Hello WFMC Family,

In 1984, John Lennon recorded the song titled, "Nobody Told Me;" the refrain of which includes the words, "Nobody told me there'd be days like these; strange days indeed!" We can certainly affirm that these are strange days...indeed! Christ-followers, however, cannot say no one told us that days like this would come. Jesus Himself said they would – days that remind us of the weight of sin that is present in our world and the effects it has on nearly every aspect of life.

These days may be somewhat surprising to us (and especially to Americans, since we're just not used to living with such things – things that many in other parts of the world live with regularly.) But days like these are not at all surprising to God...and...we need to remind ourselves that He is still very much in control of our world. I look at times like these as the fulfillment of C. S. Lewis' comments, *"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*

May God gain more of our attention in these days...and more of the attention of our world.

Bishop Cowart held a video conference with his area superintendents on Saturday evening to touch base. (You may want to know that he, himself, is self-quarantined due to his likely exposure to the virus in Luxor, Egypt. He was able to catch one of the last flights out for the USA and is now working from home for a couple weeks.) The meeting confirmed the cancellation of, or the moving to online of, denominational meetings and the curtailing of denominational travel. We also discussed how each of our area governments are approaching this event somewhat differently, with different restrictions and advisories, which means it's hard to give comprehensive counsel on some aspects. It's likely that as time moves on, the restrictions about gathering, etc. will become more stringent before they are relaxed. Even as I write this, our governor here in Kentucky has closed restaurant dining rooms and bars.

Our Board of Administration has voted to give authority for scheduling decisions to the senior staff, and in our meeting this morning, we decided that, in order to be able to abide by our leaders' health guidelines, we should extend the closure of our campus to all gatherings and events through Saturday, March 28. We will meet each Monday morning to assess the situation and adapt week to week, as circumstances change.

Among other things, this means that:

- All church-sponsored gatherings / events are cancelled through Saturday, March 28. The church campus is closed, except for the church office and library, although we are shortening church office hours. The office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- I will be creating and posting on Saturday a short message for the Sundays we are unable to gather for worship, should you so choose to use that.
- Some have asked about giving. You can mail your tithes and offerings, or drop them by the church office during office hours, or give online – [follow this link to the online option.](#)
- We all should take responsibility for our neighbors' welfare. Check on your neighbors and friends, especially those who are older.
- If you have special needs, contact the church office and we'll do our best to help. Many have volunteered extra time to help those with unique needs due to this virus.
- Please be smart in your decision-making, including the sorts of things you believe, post, and/or pass on to others. There is much information out there that is causing much fear. Be judicious. Along those same lines, recognize that there will be different opinions about what should, and should not, be done, and seek to be understanding and peace-makers as much as possible.

At this point, with each new day comes some change in perspective and counsel. This is a learning experience for all of us. May the Lord help us be the church in new ways in these days.

Blessings All,

Pastor Daryl