

HERMOSA CHURCH OF CHRIST and COVID-19

The threat of the coronavirus has taken us all by storm. And needless to say, a lot has changed this past week. On Friday, President Trump declared the coronavirus pandemic to be a National Emergency. While the world around us pauses and isolates to try to combat the spread of the coronavirus, the opportunity has never been greater for the church to shine. As believers, we are not to be influenced by fear, remembering always how the perfect love God has for us is designed to “cast out fear” (1 John 4:18).

Though there’s never been anything like this in our lifetimes, we have previously experienced crisis. When crisis disrupts individual lives, communities and even our nation, people are inclined to turn to the church for assurance and understanding. This will be no exception.

FAST FACTS ON COVID-19

1. COVID-19 was first detected in China and has now been detected in over 100 nations, including the United States.
2. This virus has recently been declared a pandemic, but much remains unknown, with fatality totals running much lower than for the seasonal flu (which has killed at least 20,000 people in the United States so far this season); yet with the percentage mortality over against contraction a little higher (3.4% as opposed to fewer than 1%). According to the World Health Organization, COVID-19 is deadlier than the flu based on current numbers, and may be transmitted easier.
3. The CDC is now saying widespread infections will affect most of the population, potentially including Hermosa members and their families. For most of the American public, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low. For the already sick, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems, the risk is considerably higher.

OUR RESPONSE

1. Faith, not Fear—Unfortunately, the threat of infection exists every day, and in almost every way. God made our immune systems to fight off the pathogens in the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. Ninety-nine percent of the time, it (our immune system) wins the battle without us even knowing a battle has been waged. Yet, that 1% of the time, when we become aware of the fight (symptoms), too often dominates our attention. Still, neither illness nor the threat of illness should cause us to panic, but to trust God. The Lord remains our refuge and strength, “an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalms 46:1). To trust in the Lord amid trouble is to experience and bear witness to the power of Christ.

2. Prayer—We are called to be people of prayer, caring for the infirmed (Matt. 10:8), at times at the risk of our own lives (John 15:13). Pray for our leaders, doctors, and caregivers, to bring healing and be protected from harm. In addition, pray for those who have lost loved ones.
3. Wisdom—We are called to use wisdom at all times, so here's what that looks like:

Personal Protection

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly. This is the most important way to keep from getting infected.
- **Do not shake hands or hug.** Greet one another with elbows bumps or just smile and wave.
- **IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL FOR ANY REASON, PLEASE STAY HOME.**
- If you have a health issue, self-quarantine. This includes those over 60 with health issues.

Steps Elders Have Taken

Due to the rapidly changing situations, the elders have decided to err on the side of caution.

- Ramped up cleaning and disinfecting is taking place.
- The church office as well as all the building will be closed for at least next week. There will be no gatherings at the building other than Sunday AM Worship. Hermosa Bright Beginnings, CR and Mid-Week Bible Classes will not meet. Do not come to the building. If you need assistance, please call the church office number.
- All non-essential meetings have been canceled such as planned youth events and Pot Lucks/Meals.
- Individual, disposable, communion cups for the bread and juice will be used this morning. Servers will present to each person individually so that no one has to touch the trays. The same will occur with the contribution collection.

Sermons will continue to be live-streamed for those unable to attend Worship.

There will be no Sunday evening services until further notice and we ask that Small Groups give strong consideration to not meeting until the threat from this pandemic has passed.

A decision concerning Sunday morning Bible Classes will be made this week. In the event of cancellations, we will notify through mass email & text and on our Facebook page.

Thank you for your prayers, faithfulness and adherence to the above directives. Until this threat has subsided, we will review the situation each Friday and let our congregation know of any changes to the above. We must do what we can and let God do what we cannot.

Hermosa Church of Christ Elders
March 13, 2020