

March 6, 2020

Dear Frederick Nazarene Family,

We want to update you on what's happening at Frederick Nazarene Church in light of the recent developments with the coronavirus (COVID-19). Like you, we've been following this evolving story with great concern and want to assure you that we and our church leaders are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment in which to worship.

During this time, here's how we are committed to keeping our facilities clean:

1. Before and after every service we will sanitize highly touched surfaces such as doors, handles, tables, water fountains, light switches and sinks.
2. Kids' toys and rooms will be sanitized before and after every service.
3. Our staff and leadership teams will wash their hands frequently and stay home if they are sick.
4. We will provide additional hand sanitizer for everyone to use. However, please be mindful of those who may be sensitive to the scent of the sanitizer.
5. Offering plates will be relocated to the front of the sanctuary so you don't need to pass them down the row.
6. The communion elements will be individually portioned out and available on tables in the front of the sanctuary.

During this time, we are also asking you to help maintain a healthy environment in the following ways:

1. *Stay at home when you or a family member are sick (and please let us know that you are ill).*
2. *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.*
3. *Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue or your arm.*
4. *Get in the habit of NOT touching your face so often.*
5. *Forgo shaking hands at church for a wave, elbow bump or a friendly smile.*
6. *If you or someone you know tests positive for COVID-19, please let us know so we can find a way to help, pray for everyone involved, and take any necessary precautions here at Frederick Nazarene.*

While the uncertainty of the current health situation is creating anxiety in our workplaces, schools, and day-to-day activities, we remain certain of God's steadfast presence and careful attention to all that is happening. Please join us in praying for those who are affected by this illness, as well as their caregivers and those who are working around the clock to minimize the impact of this virus.

In Psalm 46, we are reminded that it is God who is our refuge and strength, and our ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, let us not fear, but with confidence use this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus through our prayers and our care for others.

*In Christ,
Pastor Rob & Chris Merki*