



# COVID-19 UPDATE

Bethany Mennonite Church Family,

As most of you know by now, Governor Mike DeWine limited the gatherings of people to under 100 individuals. Although he was clear to say that this does not mandate religious gatherings and churches because of our first amendment rights but it was recommended.

Although these times are unprecedented, we will not respond with fear, but with faith believing that the God of the Scriptures, is still in control. Psalm 62:6 says, He is Our Rock and Fortress in times like this, we can trust him at all times. He is our refuge, and our hope is from Him. As Christ's representatives of His kingdom, the principles guiding our decision was to seek the welfare of our community, and to honor our government as helpful citizens.

In response to concerns about the coronavirus (COVID-19), the leaders at Bethany are taking the following steps:

We will be canceling services on Sunday and all services at Bethany for the week of March 15-20 which include Children's Party, Youth and Jr. Youth. Small groups will meet at the discretion of their leaders.

Saturday's Men's Breakfast will not be canceled. Women can now sign up for the Persian dinner & tea at the church website <https://www.bethanymc.org/event-details/ladies-persian-dinner-tea>

On Sunday Pastor Matt will send out a brief message on an online format, along with a scripture text and related question for families to use in their homes. An online link will be sent in a follow up email by Saturday evening for you to sign in on Sunday starting at 9:30 a.m. and Pastor Matt will begin speaking at 10:00 a.m.

We ask that you take this time Sunday to be in praying for this situation and also be studying God's word together as a family. We are assessing the situation one week at a time. Although we do not have live streaming set up we are making plans to have that available for future services if the need arises.

The leadership is considering offering childcare for families for both our church and community where both parents need to work and children are not in school. We want to be diligent to connect and help the elderly and others who are most vulnerable to being seriously affected by the virus.

We are also going to be working with Love Our Community to help meet the needs in our community and we will have more information on that soon. If you are available to volunteer to help with childcare, within our church if the need arises, please contact the church at [secretary@bethanymc.org](mailto:secretary@bethanymc.org). If you are in need of childcare please contact Heather as well.

We realize the coming weeks will present challenges, but are trusting in God's faithful hand to protect and guide us through this uncharted time. This is a great opportunity for us to be a light to our community in the weeks ahead. As we can offer them the peace that only comes through Jesus. We ask that you pray and help the elderly and those that are immunocompromised as they are at a greater risk, if you have question or concerns please contact Matt Zook.

Please consider continuing to tithe online during the Sundays we are not meeting, to prevent extra strain on our church budget. You can give online at the church website <https://bethanymc.onlinegiving.cc/donate/login> We appreciate your faithfulness.

Blessings,

The Leadership Team