

From: Pastor Tim

To: All members and friends of Beulah Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Coal Valley

Reason: Concerns about the Coronavirus (Covid-19)

I know that there has been increasing concern about health and safety in the light of the rising number of cases of the Coronavirus (Covid-19). I want you to know that both Sessions have had discussions about this matter. We are first and foremost concerned about the health and safety of each member of our congregations.

At this time we will be implementing the following policy to be sure that our members are as safe as possible:

1. At both churches we will eliminate the passing of the peace and we encourage that greetings extended before and after church be greetings that do not involve personal contact with others such as shaking hands or giving hugs. We will be following this strategy until further notice at both churches.
2. The offering will be handled in the following manner: Rather than the ushers passing the offering plates from person to person, the offering plates will be located at the front and rear of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in either offering plate before or after church or during the offertory.
3. The Celebration of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the same manner as usual except the bread and the cup will not be passed to each person so as to avoid the contact involved in preparation and passing of the elements. It is my judgment that we can celebrate Communion just as meaningfully by sharing the symbols of our celebration without distributing them.

The Sessions of our churches will continue to monitor the situation and take actions that are necessary to keep the members of our congregations as safe as possible.

Finally, if you feel that there is a chance you have been exposed to the virus, or you feel the risk of getting out is just too high, that is a choice for each individual to make and I would encourage each person to be in prayer for wisdom concerning the way you encounter this situation.

We are shepherded by a great God. Continue to keep all of the people who are affected by the coronavirus in your prayer. I am confident that if we continue to walk faithfully with Him, He will shine a light on our path bright enough to continue to walk through any darkness we might encounter.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Tim