

March 12, 2020

To the Faith-Family  
of the Saanich Community Church

The global spread of Covid 19 has, this week, been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. Our Canadian and provincial governments have provided us appropriate and legitimate responses to the spread of the virus in our society. As Kingdom citizens who live in the real world we too want to be responsible, wise, and good neighbours. We want to protect ourselves and all who surround us as much as possible. Therefore we ask everyone to be mindful of the following:



1. Those who are feeling sick should not attend public gatherings until they are well. There will be signs at the door asking anyone with fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches or joint pain of new onset or fever over 37.5 C to stop immediately and not enter the building.
2. While we will never turn anyone away, we encourage those who are elderly (60+), those who are immunocompromised, those who live with underlying chronic conditions (such as diabetes, chronic lung/heart disease, etc.) and those health-care workers whose roles place them in Covid-prevention situations to consider withholding their attendance and participation in the worship and life of SCC until the pandemic is over.
3. We have arranged for extra disinfecting protocols within the church building (light switches, door handles and crash-bars, table surfaces, thermostats, phones, sound equipment, hymnals and song books, etc). If there is anything that requires attention, please let the office know.
4. During the pandemic we will suspend our monthly Fellowship lunches.
5. During the pandemic we will suspend our normal weekly provision of coffee/tea and refreshments.
6. Everyone attending on Sunday morning should anticipate the following during the pandemic:
  - The external door (if weather permits) and at least one sanctuary door will remain open during the service;
  - We are encouraged to make use of the hand-sanitizer pump in the foyer and in the lower hall;
  - We are encouraged to refrain from public displays of affection/welcome but rather are requested to greet one another with eye contact and warm words;
  - We will suspend the passing of offering bags and encourage those choosing to give, to leave their donations in the basket at the front of the sanctuary by the cross;
  - We will suspend the Passing of the Peace during gathered worship;
  - We will suspend the practice of the Lord's Table;
  - We are encouraged to keep with us our outer-wear coats and jackets rather than hanging items up;

- We are encouraged as much as possible to practice safe distance from one another (authorities suggest 1-2 m but this may not be possible);
  - We are encouraged to refrain from touching unnecessary surfaces, including our faces;
  - We are encouraged to cough into a handkerchief or our elbow.
7. You are encouraged to connect with your small group/service group leaders to determine if planned gatherings will proceed or will be postponed.
  8. We want to provide support and pastoral care for our elderly, infirmed and those self-isolating because of the pandemic. Let us know if you are self-isolating and, or, are in need of pastoral care. Pastor Ken and, or, congregational caregivers are available to help as they can through phone support, grocery pick-up, meal delivery and other ways they can serve. Do not hesitate to call the office 250.479.0410 or Pastor Ken 250.884.4281 and, or email [office@saanichcommunity.ca](mailto:office@saanichcommunity.ca) or [ken@saanichcommunity.ca](mailto:ken@saanichcommunity.ca).
  9. We are grateful to be able to live with the benefits of the health care system we have. Let us uphold in prayer all our frontline medical practitioners and workers, specialists, researchers and hospital, clinic and laboratory personnel. Let us pray God's wisdom for our political and public health authorities facing hard decisions.
  10. The Saanich Community Church is greater, deeper and stronger than our gatherings on Sunday morning and the temporary suspension of our normal routines and practices. God has provided his presence with each one of us as we live and work and serve and have our being. Let us be those people who remain strong, calm, loving, serving, caring, compassionate, courageous and dispensers of hope and the message of God's love for the world in each and every situation we find ourselves in.

On behalf of the Ministries Council,  
Yours faithfully,  
Pastor Ken  
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[ken@saanichcommunity.ca](mailto:ken@saanichcommunity.ca)

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