



March 13, 2020

Dear Gashland EPC Family,

As the leadership of the church, our heart is to encourage you in your walk with Christ and minister to our congregation in all seasons. One area of care we take seriously is the physical well-being of our church community as well as the neighboring community we seek to reach for Christ. As a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Session and I met regarding precautions we should take in an attempt to keep each of you and our campus as safe as possible.

During this season, we are stepping up current efforts and introducing new ones. Here are items we want you to be aware of:

- Cleaning of the entire campus is being done on Saturday night. Additionally, FirstTeam members will be wiping down frequently touched areas such as pews, stair rails, door handles, and water fountains prior to and during services.
- Hand sanitizers and wipes will be available at various areas at each service and throughout the church. (While these items are currently hard to come by, we ask that if you are in a location selling the items and the limit allows you to buy more than your personal needs, that you consider buying these for the church. We can reimburse these expenses.)
- During our coffee time, servers will "pump" your coffee/water for you.
- During 2nd service, we will no longer "pass" the offering bags but servers will reach to you so you may put your offering and/or attendance cards in the bag.
- Servers with food gloves will provide the elements to you during Communion.
- Greeters will temporarily greet you by a friendly hello, smile, and wave rather than a handshake.
- Bulletins will continue to be handed to you but if uncomfortable will be on the tables for you to select on your own.
- For our little ones, please know the toys, sinks, and other commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned frequently.
- Should anyone in our church family contract the virus, we will work with the local authorities on how to respond. If you test positive for the virus, we ask that you volunteer that information to us so we might have a better grasp of how to respond.
- In the event local and/or state health officials recommend closure for gatherings of our size or if we determine it is in the best interest of our church family to not have service, we will inform everyone through our website, The Link, emails and social media. Processes are being worked on to provide virtual sermons should closure be recommended for any substantial time.

We believe there is great opportunity for those who trust Christ to be light in the darkness of this present situation. Therefore, we desire to be people who live not by fear, but by faith. We want to love the most vulnerable in our communities to assure their safety. We want to have hearts of sacrifice and service rather than self-consumption. As we enter into a season that is unfamiliar for us, we trust in a God who is unchanging. And we trust that His followers are here to bring peace, healing and hope to a world overwhelmed by anxiousness. We will keep you all updated on any new developments as we walk this road together. May God bless you all.

Pastors Ritchey Cable and Michael Morefield
And the Session of GEPC