We ask our members and friends to please observe the following guidelines regarding participation in church events:

1. If you are feeling sick or experiencing symptoms such as cough, sneeze, runny nose, sore throat, body aches, fever, or difficulty breathing, or if you have had close contact with someone who is, please stay home and take care of yourself. Please err on the side of caution; we want everyone to be protected and safe.

2. If you are over 60 years old, or have any vulnerable conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, etc., please consider staying home for your own protection. God wants you safe and healthy, and so do we!

3. If you are healthy and feeling good, please do continue to come to church and participate in activities. We will hold public worship this Sunday, March 15, at the regular times. Note that some church activities will be adapted to minimize germ transmission (see below). If we need to cancel any activities, we will communicate that immediately through the same channels we use for weather cancellations.

4. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Experts recommend washing with a good lather for at least 20 seconds before rinsing, and using paper towels to turn off faucets, lights, etc.

5. Anytime you cannot access soap and water, please use hand sanitizer to kill germs on your hands.

6. Our custodial staff is working hard to keep surface areas, doorknobs, etc., clean and disinfected. Nevertheless, it is recommended to avoid unnecessary contact with public surfaces and touching your face.

7. Avoid touching other people if possible. Opt for warm smiles, friendly waves and kind words. This is hard in a warm, friendly church like Wesley! But we will resume hugs and handshakes after this season passes. It is best to be cautious in the meantime; nobody will judge you or think you are being unfriendly if you just wave and say, “so good to see you!”

8. When enjoying refreshments (like doughnuts and coffee) or meals at church, please allow a gloved server to fill your plate for you.

9. Please feel free to worship with us online by visiting www.wesley-umc.com and clicking on the “Sermons” tab and in particular the status of the virus in and near Illinois, and we are committed to keeping our church family as safe and healthy as we can. At this time, Illinois has very few diagnosed cases of COVID-19, and McLean County has none. Nevertheless, we want to be proactive and encourage good hygiene in order to protect good health.

Adaptations in Wesley practices for the short-term (during this cold/flu/virus season):

1. Hand-sanitizer, tissues and/or disinfecting wipes will be available at all entrances, in restrooms, on counter-tops and tables and in the pews (as available)

2. Sunday morning greeting will be touch-free as much as possible.

3. Please allow a safe distance between yourself and others in the pews. Experts recommend 3-6 feet.

4. Sunday morning offering and attendance will be received by “drop-off” at the sanctuary exits, rather than passing the plates in the pews. *Note: while cold/flu/virus time tends to be seasonal, offerings are needed all year around! You are encouraged to practice electronic giving by visiting www.wesley-umc.com/giving to securely submit your offering, or mail it to the church (502 E. Front St., Bloomington IL 61701).

5. Doughnuts/coffee and meals will be served by gloved volunteers rather than self-served.

6. Cancellations will be communicated through email/Facebook/Friday ALIVE/website/church office voicemail/ as well as public notices via WJBC/WBNQ (www.wjbc.com/cancellations/) and THE PANTAGRAPH (www.pantagraph/news/local)

7. As is our practice regarding weather cancellations, if District 87 cancels classes, Wesley will cancel activities for the same time period, including Wesley’s Bright Beginnings.

8. The Tuesday morning women’s Bible Study will not meet in person during this season, but will share prayer concerns, greetings and scripture reflection via email. Other groups may choose to do this, as well. The Jr. High Spring Break Mission Trip to St. Louis has been postponed. At this time there are no other cancellations, but as we keep apprised of further developments, we do anticipate eventual adjustments in worship and other gatherings. Please let the church know if you need to be contacted by phone.

9. Please feel free to worship with us online by visiting www.wesley-umc.com and clicking on the “Sermons” tab at the top, or the “Welcome” tab, then “Sunday Mornings at Wesley”, then scroll down to “Sunday Sermons”.

A Word of Comfort and Reassurance

While we may be farther from one another “in body” over these next few weeks, we are still united in spirit. The physical, spiritual and emotional well-being of our church family is very important to us.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of a little extra tender loving care, or if you’ve noticed someone missing from our community (think about your pew-mates!), please reach out to them and see how they’re doing.

Please let your pastors know if you or anyone else is sick or in need.

We are praying for you and for our whole Wesley family!

Pastor Sara Isbell (sisbell@wesley-umc.com) – 217.299.4870
Pastor Justin Iverson (jiverson@wesley-umc.com) – 701.809.1203
Pastor Sally Hamon (shamon@wesley-umc.com) – 217.853.9117 – after March 22