

Dear New Life Family,

As you know, the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) is in the news daily. The situation is fluid as the virus spreads and more information is shared. The state of Ohio continues to make restrictions in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. Just yesterday gatherings over 100 were banned. HOWEVER, this ban does not apply to churches.

As you also know, the growing mountain of information can make it hard to have a thoughtful dialogue and response. But that's what we should offer as followers of Jesus, trusting in God to provide the proper balance of good judgment but not fear. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment." 2 Timothy 1:7 (CSB)

The Elders met this morning (Friday) and after prayer and discussion decided that it is appropriate for New Life to continue meeting and having worship services. We are also taking steps to ensure the safest environment on Sunday. These steps involve a number of changes which we describe in detail below.

1. It is our responsibility as Christians to love one another well and part of that means thinking about others in relation to our church attendance.
 - If you are sick, please stay home and rest.
 - If you have a cough or fever, please don't tough it out and come anyway.
 - If you are in the most at risk groups (elderly & immune deficiency) for COVID-19, please stay home. If you are staying home because you are in this group, please let one of the elders or the church office know. Please, please communicate with us if you need help with anything.
2. We are making changes to the way communion works. The bread and the cup will come combined in a stacked 2 cup combination. (bread in the bottom cup) We will no longer pass the trays, but will make them available at tables in both the front and rear of our auditorium. These changes are intended to limit the amount that people touch and breath on the elements before we take them.
3. Rather than passing a tray for offerings, we will have you put your offering in the boxes by the doors.
4. When we greet one another on Sunday we greatly encourage you to refrain from handshakes and hugs. We love these things, but for now it is better to greet with words and forego the physical contact.
5. We have sanitized the church including, bathrooms, door handles, tables and chairs, pews, drinking fountains, and anything else we could think of.
6. We have hand sanitizer available in several key places around the building. We also encourage you to wash your hands. With soap. Often.
7. For those who might be concerned, Steve (who just returned from Israel) talked to the Ohio Health Department hotline for COVID-19 and they determined that there was no need for he or Isaac to be tested at this time.
8. This is the plan for **now**. We will continue to evaluate and adjust as needed as this situation changes.

Finally, we want to encourage you in the midst of this situation to place your trust in God. As we shared in the beginning of this letter, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment." 2 Timothy 1:7 (CSB) As God's family we want to see this not as a reason to fear, but instead as an opportunity to show God's favor-his compassion, mercy, and blessing to the world.

You can do this by keeping in touch with your church family, your neighbors, and your friends. As our normal society (sports and many other activities) comes to a halt, our care and concern and contact will be an increasingly powerful witness for our Lord!

In God's Hands and Service

The Elders of New Life (Eric Ellis, Lyle Beveridge, Jon Beveridge, & Scott Cromer)