

"HEARD ON THE HILL"

Issue 11

News from Willistown United Methodist Church

March 13, 2020

Welcome to "Heard on the Hill"! This is an "e-mail blast" to keep all our friends and members informed of all the activities here at Willistown UMC. Please let editor, Sara Beam, know of any team meetings or events of interest that we can pass on to both the church community and our neighbors in the geographic community.

Pastor Jim is back! We are grateful for his healthy return and thank Bill Snyder for filling in over the last few weeks.

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION IS IN THIS ISSUE. SIGNS WILL BE POSTED IN RESTROOMS, KITCHEN AND BULLETIN BOARDS. Cancellation of events will be passed along as received.

Upcoming

Friday, March 27, 2020 at 8:00 pm right here at Willistown, The Greenleigh Chorale with orchestra will present a concert of Sacred music by Gabriel Faure, featuring his most sublime work, "Requiem", with texts looking toward the rest and peace that awaits us all. His closing "In Paradisum" is one of the most beautiful of all sacred choral works. The program will include 3 other Faure works.

Please come and enjoy this beautiful Lenten music with one of the area's premiere choral groups. There is also a performance on **Sunday, March 29th at 3:00 pm at St. Agnes RC Church in West Chester** The Greenleigh Chorale is a community chorus open to all who love to sing, whose members come from all over the Delaware Valley.



Next meeting of the Church Council will be on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 10:00 am. All are welcome and ministry heads are encouraged to attend.

Election Day Bake Sale is Tentatively scheduled for April 28, 2020.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMCOR Sunday	March 22	Special envelopes for UMCOR
Greenleigh Chorale	March 27	Lenten Concert at 8:00 PM
Palm Sunday	April 5	9:00 and 10:30 Palms Distributed
Holy Thursday	April 9	6:00 Supper and Service
Good Friday	April 10	12:00 to 12:45 PM. Music at noon, followed by brief worship at 12:45 PM and silent meditation until 3:00 PM.
Easter Sunday	April 12	9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Easter Services
Election Day Bake Sale	April 28	Bake Sale

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If you would like to Greet or be an Usher, please contact Don Stapleton. If you would like to be a Liturgist, contact Barbara Gorham. We are always in need people to serve and it is a great way to be a part of the church life.

In Service

Date	Name
	Ushers
March 15	Naomi and Chip Stokes
March 22	Ruth McNamara and Barbara Gorham
March 29	Barbara and Gil Fell
	Greeters
March 15	Agnes Tobin and Kim Pierce
March 22	Carol Rice and Beth Southern
March 29	Charlene and Mel Cox
	Liturgists
March 15	Barbara Gorham
March 22	Jim McNamara
March 29	Jane Jeffrey



1	Ken Colburn
3	Bill Bowers
14	Janet Wise
28	Chloe Clark



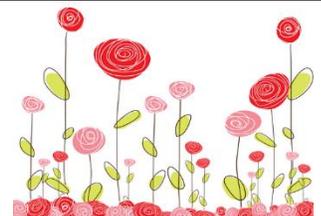
11	Randy and Ana Southern
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Creation Care Clues

Keep Track of the Trash

In the United States, we throw out about 40 percent of our food every year. Start logging a weekly record of every food item you toss in the garbage. That way, you can notice patterns (e.g., every week you throw away half a gallon of spoiled milk) and tweak your shopping habits accordingly. Good for Creation, and good for your budget!



Resources, ideas to protect worshipers from coronavirus

By John W. Coleman

Churches are planning and taking steps to protect themselves from the spread of the potentially deadly coronavirus by revamping their worship and fellowship practices.

Many older members, especially those with vulnerable medical conditions, may heed experts' advice to avoid attending worship and other events. And many of those who continue to gather are conscientiously avoiding hugs, handshakes and kisses in greeting one another, or in "passing the peace," and choosing instead to touch elbows or not touch at all. Pastors are telling congregants to not feel offended if someone doesn't want to join them in a hug or handshake, but to follow their example.

Some churches may decide to celebrate Holy Communion with individual, wrapped, single-serve cups. And some may forego fellowship gatherings to limit social contact. It's all part of what's called "social distancing," a term that might otherwise seem unfriendly. But in fact, it's a matter of observing Jesus' command to love one another as we love ourselves.

"We're encouraging folks to use other non-physical ways to show love and affection for each other," said one church administrator. "We can look at each other and say, 'May the peace of Christ be with you,' and not actually shake hands."

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky offers more good advice in her recent blog article, [Stop the spread of Covid-19 in church](#). She leads the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area (encompassing the Alaska, Oregon-Idaho, and Pacific Northwest annual conferences).

I encourage all United Methodists, wherever you gather, to take these reasonable precautions, consistent with the advice of the World Health Organization:

- Stay home when you don't feel well. Model this behavior and encourage others to do the same.
- Download and post [Advice for Public from the World Health Organization](#) in all restrooms and kitchens.
- Be sure alcohol-based hand sanitizer is readily available throughout your facilities, for example, alongside boxes of tissue in sanctuary pews, and in every room. Encourage people to take the hand sanitizer with them when they leave. Then make sure it is replenished. Invite a church member to volunteer to monitor this as a gift to the health of the church.
- Encourage everyone to observe a 4-foot distance from others. Maybe suggest a new gesture of greeting, like folding your hands over your heart and then opening them palms out and down toward another person — in a sign of connection, rather than palms out and up, which might indicate separation.
- Check the World Health Organization website and local health sites for new public notices, publicize them. (See Below)

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The Ten Commandments for Coronavirus Prevention in Faith Communities

By: Dr. Kevin Murriel

1. THOU SHALL NOT PANIC— It's important that we educate our congregants using facts not myths. Dr. Robert Murphy, executive director of the Institute for Global Health at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and an infectious diseases professor says, "the one thing we really don't need is mass hysteria." "Coronavirus" has been around for years. In humans, coronaviruses infect cells of the upper respiratory and gastrointestinal tract and are responsible for about one third of all common colds. The current strand of coronavirus, COVID-19, has people most concerned because it has been linked to a higher rate of mortality. However, the CDC estimates that so far this season there have been at least 32 million flu illnesses, 310,000 hospitalizations and 18,000 deaths from the flu. The reality is, we should always be cautious during flu season in particular, but coronavirus should not cause us to panic. Health experts suggest that prevention is the best course of action.

2. THOU SHALL CLEAN THY HANDS REGULARLY AND THOROUGHLY—When coronavirus began to spread, I was going through the airport and saw hundreds of people wearing masks. The next day, a major news outlet reported that wearing masks is an ineffective practice for controlling the spread of the coronavirus. The number one recommendation was to wash your hands thoroughly, as often as possible, with soap and warm water for at least twenty seconds. Before shaking hands or engaging in any human contact, we should make sure our hands are clean. The CDC also recommends refraining from touching your eyes or mouth before you have washed your hands.

3. THOU SHALL ENGAGE IN SOCIAL DISTANCING— Faith communities are known for "passing the peace" during worship. This is a designated moment of fellowship which often includes hugging, handshakes, and even greetings with a kiss. I recommend churches continue to the "pass the peace," but do it while engaging in social distancing. That is, greet one another by touching elbows, waving, nodding, or some other virtual sign of love while being judicious with human contact. Each person should use their discretion with this practice and should not be offended should someone not want to hug or shake hands as they normally would.

4. THOU SHALL MAKE SANITIZER AVAILABLE— If possible, sanitizer should be made available in as many places around the worship facility as possible. Stations should be intentionally positioned at entrances and exits as well as strategically within the worship space. If you have your own sanitizer, use it as often as you need to during worship. Also, you may want to be a good neighbor and offer sanitizer to others as they have need. Ushers, greeters, etc. should wash their hands thoroughly and have sanitizer and tissue available for worshippers.

5. THOU SHALL LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AND CARE FOR THYSELF— In Matthew 22:39, Jesus says the second greatest commandment is to "love thy neighbor as thyself." If you are sick or experiencing cold-like symptoms, please love your neighbor enough to stay home from worship and other activities and love yourself enough to get well and visit a healthcare professional. This is also important for children and youth.

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6. THOU SHALL PUT SIGNS IN RESTROOMS— Placing signs in restrooms reminding people to wash their hands thoroughly and providing instructions for proper handwashing can be very effective in coronavirus prevention.

7. THOU SHALL NOT DISCRIMINATE— The new strand of coronavirus (COVID-19) originated in China. Since then, there have been numerous incidents of discrimination towards the Asian community. As people of faith, we should affirm all of God's people as sacred worth and should denounce this type of evil.

8. THOU SHALL BE CONSIDERATE OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS— Like any health crisis, there are certain populations more at risk that need our attention and care. Our senior citizens, as well as individuals with co-morbid conditions in our congregations should be considered high on our priority list for care. Make regular wellness calls and visits to seniors within your worship community to ensure they have everything they need. We should be doing this regularly anyway, however, it should especially be done until coronavirus is eradicated.

9. THOU SHALL BE WISE WITH TRANSPORTATION— Faith communities with transportation ministries should take precautionary measures to ensure vehicles are thoroughly cleaned inside and that sanitizer is offered in transit. Faith communities doing outreach should ensure all volunteers sign waivers of liability, and should food be distributed, precautions should be taken to protect those being served. For such precautions, refer to commandment #2.

10. THOU SHALL PRAY— After following every commandment and being as cautious as possible, at our core, we are people who believe in the power of prayer. We should pray for God to heal our land. We should pray for the families already affected by COVID-19. We should pray for faith to continue worshipping and serving. We should pray for our leaders and health professionals working diligently to contain and respond to this virus. We should pray and care for each other.

Remember, it's about prevention, so don't panic. This, too, shall pass.

About the writer: The Rev. Kevin Murriel leads over 7,000 members as the senior pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. He has given us permission to republish.



Protect others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing **cover mouth and nose** with flexed elbow or tissue



Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use

Clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water after coughing or sneezing and when caring for the sick



Protect others from getting sick



Avoid close contact when you are experiencing cough and fever

Avoid spitting in public



If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing **seek medical care early** and share previous travel history with your health care provider

