

The Latest Policy Concerning COVID-19 Pandemic for SBUMC 3/17/2020



The Administrative Council met on 3/16/2020 to discuss how we as the Sturgeon Bay United Methodist Church should respond to the current COVID-19 Pandemic. It was voted to go with the guidelines that would limit gatherings to less than 10 people. These latest guidelines are from “The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines 3/16/20. The guidelines are aggressive and meant to slow the spread of the virus. By doing that we make it less likely that we will overwhelm the healthcare system and their ability to meet our healthcare needs.

At the present time we don’t have an accurate idea of how many people have been infected. Only those people who show significant symptoms are presently being tested. This means that there may be some infected and shedding the virus who have no symptoms and are not being isolated. We also know that we live in a community with a high number of elderly (>60 yr. of age). As we get older our immune system which is called upon to fight a viral infection may not be as active and adequate as those who are younger. In addition, people with chronic illnesses, and/or people who are taking immunosuppressive medications may also have a weakened immune system. The result means that these vulnerable people have a higher chance of having a more severe illness, a greater need for hospitalization and critical care, and mortality.

If we make the assumption that each of us could be carrying and shedding this virus and follow the above mentioned guidelines, we can reduce the spread of this disease. Doing this can save lives including our own and our loved ones. Doing this is also costly. People may be unemployed and businesses may have to shut down. Isolation especially for the elderly can be difficult. People who have relied on the community for adequate nutrition will be made more vulnerable. People living in poverty, the homeless, and those who don’t have access to healthcare will be adversely affected. We must do what we can to help.

The Sturgeon Bay United Methodist Church can make a difference:

- We will work with existing agencies to provide nutrition for those in need.
- We will use letters, e-mails, and phone calls to reach out to people in Assisted Living, Nursing Homes, Hospitals, and shut-ins to offer comfort, hope, prayers and a helping hand if needed.
- We will continue to record worship services even though the pews may be empty. These recordings can be available through our Radio Ministry at WDOR Sundays at 9:30 am. An audio recording will also be available on the website sturgeonbayumc.org. We are considering putting a video recording of these services on the local cable channel.
- We have made it possible to provide donations through our website and have encouraged people to consider “scheduled giving” during this time to support our Ministry Programs. Please check the website for details.

These are difficult times, but these are also times for opportunities in which we can **Love and Follow Jesus Christ, Learn** God's purpose for us. **Listen, Hear, and Respond** to the pleas of the community, the world, and individuals. Together **witness** to others with our talents and lives.

May God Bless You!

Roderick Krueger, M.D. Co-LayLeader