

VBUMC Coronavirus Mitigation Plan

Updated: 3/23/2020

Overview:

VBUMC recognizes the seriousness of the potential impacts of the coronavirus on the health and well - being of our congregation. Our primary responsibility is to do all that we can to mitigate the virus while continuing to offer opportunities to practice our faith as a Christian community. As we witness the changes required in our daily routines in order to slow the spread of the disease, it is normal to experience some level of stress, anxiety, and frustration. That's why it is especially important to remember that we are not alone. God is always with us especially when we feel vulnerable and unsure. Pray to him with the confidence that He hears your prayers and will never leave us.

Communication:

As we are aware of cancellations or rescheduling of worship, ministries, and meetings, we will primarily communicate by email and posting announcements on our website. Ministry directors will work closely with lay leaders to help update participants in Bible studies and in outreach ministries like Potters House and CBC. As we receive communications from Bishop Lewis, we will let you know as quickly as we can.

Worship Services:

Sunday morning worship is important to all of us. However the need to prioritize our community's public health is recognized by our denomination and will require us to worship at home until the spread of the virus has been contained. Please check our website as Pastor Mark plans to provide videos which you can use during your Sunday worship experience. Make use of the many devotional materials you can find online, read your Bible, and pray for all those impacted by this pandemic. Stay in touch with members of your life groups and Sunday School classes. The negative impacts of isolation can be greatly reduced by active communication with those we care about.

Ministry Programs and Events:

Many volunteer leaders of our congregational ministries decided to cancel events for the coming weeks. They were uncomfortable with large groups continuing to meet with special concerns for individuals more vulnerable to the virus. We respect the decisions to cancel or postpone ministries in order to curb the spread of the disease and will communicate those decisions by email and on the website. If you decide to cancel or reschedule an event, please let your ministry director or Emily Gimlin know. Emily can be reached by emailing her at egimlin@vbumc.org.

EDIT 3/23/20: The church building has been closed and all activities and events are cancelled until further notice.

Potters House and CBC:

Potters House has modified their operations in the following way:

- ID/Birth Certifications Services and in person financial assistance will be suspended until 3/31.
- Those requesting financial assistance can call 757-428-7727, ext. 212.
- The availability of bikes including repairs will be suspended also until 3/31.
- Bag lunches and pre-made food pantry bags will be distributed during regular hours (9:30-11:00 am on Tuesday and Thursday).

CBC has been suspended as a result of the Governor's decision to close the public schools for two weeks.

Seaside School:

Seaside School is also closed beginning Monday March 16 for two weeks. The school's policy has been to follow the schedule of the Virginia Beach Public Schools.

Staffing:

VBUMC staff with children impacted by the closing of the public-school system will work from home while the schools are closed. Currently Mandi Cutchins (mcutchins@vbumc.org), Dusty Nickerson (dnickerson@vbumc.org), and Pam Peskoe (ppeskoe@vbumc.org) will be available to you by email. We have arranged for them to access their files and documents stored on our network so that they continue to carry out their responsibilities. Should it be necessary for all staff to work from home, we are finalizing the logistics which will allow them to work remotely.

EDIT 3/23/20: The church building has been closed and all staff are working from home until further notice. Please contact staff via email if necessary.

Building Maintenance:

Our cleaning service uses hospital grade cleaning supplies. To reduce the potential spread of the virus, they are also wiping door knobs and light switches in addition to their normal cleaning routines. They will also do a deep clean in the Seaside School classrooms and the nursery.

Construction:

At this time, construction is proceeding as planned. We continue to regularly meet with our architect, general contractor, and vendors involved with the new north wing. Should their availability change, we will let you know.

Financial Planning:

With the disruption in our Sunday worship services, we are concerned that giving may be impacted. Please remember that while ministries may be temporarily cancelled, our ongoing expenses associated with utilities, building maintenance, and payroll continue. You may want to consider giving online or using our new Text-to-

Give capability. Below you will find instructions detailing how to make use of these options. If you need assistance, please contact Amy Arrington at aarrington@vbumc.org.

Giving Online

- Go to vbumc.org website.
- Click on Give.
- If it is your first time using this online giving process, click Register to register for an account. If you have given before, you only need to login.
- To finalize the process, follow the steps outlined on the page.

Text-to-Give Instructions

- Text the dollar amount (e.g. \$100.00) you would like to give to **(757) 260-4555**.
- If it is your first time using text-to-give, you will receive a text back with a link to a web page to register. Follow the steps to register and choose the fund to which you are giving.
- When registration is complete, you will receive a receipt, via text, for the amount given.

For More Information:

Should you be interested in the most up-to-date information, we suggest you monitor the following websites:

City of Virginia Beach: emergency.vbgov.com/coronavirus

Commonwealth of Virginia: www.vdh.virginia.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

And Most Importantly:

Please take care of yourself and your family. Follow the recommendations issued by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention including:

- Practice social distancing and avoid large groups.
- Practice appropriate hygiene guidelines including frequent hand washing and avoiding touching hard surfaces and your face.
- If you have health conditions that would impact your recovery should you contract the virus, please consider limiting your contact with others.
- If you already feel unwell, please honor the well-being of others by staying home.

May the Lord bless and keep you;
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Amen.