

**Saint James UMC**  
**Guidelines in Response to COVID-19**

**March 13, 2020**

A Community of faithful people believes and relies on God's care and protection. Further, we believe we have a shared responsibility to be prepared and to provide the best care for one another and all who come to Saint James.

We want to inform you of schedule changes **effective March 14<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please know that these changes may be extended and we will provide updates as needed.

**In line with the directive from our Bishop, Saint James will not hold regularly scheduled services, meetings or activities through March 28.**

**When we are able to resume our regular schedule:**

- We want to assure you that, along with regular cleaning, careful cleaning will be performed and table tops and surfaces will be disinfected before we resume our regular schedule.
- Use thorough hand-washing protocol (soap & warm water for 20 sec – sing the Doxology)
- Stay home if you have any symptoms of upper respiratory illness (runny nose, fever, cough)
- Follow proper cough protocol (into elbow, sleeve, use tissue, dispose of tissue, wash hands)
- Refrain from shaking hands... use elbow bump, peace sign, prayer position or ASL 'Peace Be With You' or smile to greet people
- We will not pass offering plates; an alternative procedure will be used.
- We need each person to practice good personal hygiene in handwashing and use of hand sanitizer. These items are available in the bathrooms and common areas of the church.

**General Safety Protocols**

The health and safety of our congregation, staff, and community groups remain our top priority. Please continue to take preventive measures and look out for each other. We encourage you to follow the guidance of federal, state and local health officials:

- If you have traveled to an area of increased alert for COVID-19 and you feel sick, seek medical attention
- Avoid mass gatherings.
- Avoid non-essential travel.
- Stay away from others when you are sick, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid crowded areas or places where you might interact with people who are sick.
- Keep a 6 foot distance between yourself and other people.

Resources: Fact- based resources are available from Centers for Disease Control ... [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

We are a faithful community of God, who love and serve God's people. Let us do so now, more than ever and keep one another lifted in prayer during this season. Best of all, we are not alone!

Blessings, Pastor Pat and the Leadership of Saint James