

Today Philippians 4 comes to mind:

“I know what it is to be in need, **and** I know what it is to have **plenty**. I have learned the secret of being content in any **and** every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in **plenty** or in **want**.”

We are living in unprecedented times. Not since the unrest of the Vietnam War Era, the Great Depression or the outbreak of the Spanish Flu in 1916 has our nation experienced the social hysteria, sharp economic loss and fear of death – and this, all at the same time.

The long-term solutions of the COVID-19 pandemic are still being explored. We only know now what we know, and we can only control and contain what few have access to.

What we do know is this:

WASHINGTON – In a significant increase in measures to stop the spread of the coronavirus, President Donald Trump on Monday issued guidelines that called for Americans to avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people and to limit discretionary travel.

The CDC has recommended under 50 people for 8 weeks.

The Iowa Department of Public Health has closed schools for 4 weeks and will review later.

This morning – Tuesday – **Governor Reynolds** issued a **State of Public Health Disaster Emergency saying**: Mass Gathering: Social, **community, spiritual, religious**, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of **more than 10 people are hereby prohibited** at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers.

THEREFORE – The Hull First Reformed Consistory has concluded:

Beginning immediately and extending until at least April 12:

Family Night and Youth Activities – It is our policy that when Boyden-Hull Schools are closed we will not be having Wednesday night activities. Wednesday night and youth activities are now suspended until further notice.

Church Auction – The auction scheduled for March 23 will be postponed. No date has been selected.

Search Team large group event scheduled for March 29 will be postponed. No date has been set.

Haiti Trip is being postponed. Dates will need to be coordinated with UCI and the airlines.

Sunday School/Children In Worship – is suspended until further notice.

Greeters, Valet Parking, and Nursery Workers will not be needed until further notification is given.

Worship Services – We have the opportunity to conduct worship on a limited basis because of our arrangement with Premier Communications’ Channel 12 and our Livestreaming capability. We realize this does not reach the whole community nor all our members. However, we are committed to bringing the best possible worship experience that we can in the midst of this crisis. Some of that will

be live and some may be taped. We will do our best to adhere to the call of God to worship and the proclamation of our civic authorities.

Musicians, projection and sound operators will still be needed as scheduled. We may need to be creative in how some of those things are put together.

Ultimately, while some ministry is being suspended, I challenge you to look for new opportunities to engage in ministry with your neighbors. Allow God to redeem this situation and for the church to be agents of the Holy Spirit to bring hope, peace and joy to an anxious and frenzied world.

Even though the coronavirus prevents us from using the normal means to “equip the saints for works of service”, we still want to build up the Body of Christ. To avoid spreading disease, we are working to secure resources you can access from home, which will equip you for service to each other and our community. These resources will include faith education materials to use with your family members, a healthy friend, or a healthy neighbor who lacks spiritual support at home. Please start praying about who to use these resources with. We will email you as soon as these resources are available.

Finally, the words of Paul echo loudly “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7