



THEALLIANCE

Western Pennsylvania District

341 N. Chestnut Street, Punxsutawney, PA 15767

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear District Family,

Today we are living in an unprecedented season that, for many, has bred uncertainty and fear as each hour seems to bring more updates on the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I am grateful for the confidence we have in the strength and sovereignty of our God. We are steadfast in our faith and believe that, no matter what surrounds us, our God is in control.

The District Leadership Team has been continuing to monitor the unfolding events very carefully and has made every effort to communicate with the churches of the district in order to share encouragement and prayer, as well as to learn from the various perspectives being offered.

At this point in time, we are suggesting that district churches follow the recommendations of the government authorities and suspend Sunday services and public gatherings for the next two weeks. We recommend this dramatic step, not out of fear, but out of respect for our leaders and for the benefit of our communities.

Please note: the SEEK 2020 event scheduled for May 1-2, has been postponed. This action is taken out of compliance with government mandates and also out of concern for those who might be vulnerable in a situation where many people are in close proximity to one another. If you've registered for the event, your registration will be refunded as soon as event coordinators are able to do so. While we are all disappointed to not be sharing a wonderful weekend together, may we be in prayer for those affected by this virus and see this as an opportunity to live out the gospel in our local context.

While this interruption to normalcy may seem drastic, we do not want to underestimate the serious nature of this illness, especially for those who are most vulnerable to its effects.

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We would also like to suggest that, instead of simply “hunkering down” and turning on the television, we give ourselves to opportunities to serve both God and our neighbors during this time. You could use these unexpected hours to:

- Discover creative and meaningful ways to be the church.
- Call a friend and offer to pray together.
- Write a note of encouragement or call someone in a retirement community.
- Read a good book.
- Check in with a neighbor to see if their needs are being met.
- Take time to pray for our Alliance International Workers.

Your district leaders are eager to serve you in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to contact me or your regional team leader with questions or concerns.

Yes, this virus should not be underestimated. But neither should our God. May we grasp on to our faithful Savior, as well as every available opportunity to be the church in these days of uneasiness.

Serving together,



Rev. David Nagel
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