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**Fwd: Coronavirus Update: Church Closure**

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**Bothell**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: CHURCH CLOSURE**

Friends,

The Leadership here at Bothell UMC have been following the **advice and expertise** of public officials in King County regarding COVID-19 (the **source: county** Coronavirus), including what was released Wednesday afternoon (see the **King County's Public Health page**). While we **don't want to cause fear**, we want to **tone: no fear** share with you the steps we are taking to be **proactive** in our **commitment to the health and safety of our communities**. **value: preparation, safety, community**

An additional **update from a King County** public health official advised **tone: bless, vibrant** canceling gatherings of 50 or more people. We are **blessed to be a vibrant church** with many groups that come and go, so we have a **great concern** for **tone: concern** congregants and **members of the community who are at risk** (ages 60+, those with underlying conditions, pregnant, or weakened immune systems). We also want to **ensure that we are not exposing others to the virus and cause spreading within the community**. **value: not cause harm**

**logistic: cancel**

**With this concern and caution for public health, we have decided to not meet in person for worship on March 8. We invite you and encourage you to join us for an adapted online worship at [bothellumc.org](http://bothellumc.org) at 9am.**

(Streaming will be available on the homepage of the **website** and via **Facebook**.)

**logistics: online**

**Bothell Community Kitchen** will also not meet in person on March 8; **instead**, we will offer brown paper bag meals to go. **logistics: adapt**

**Small groups, ministry teams, or other meetings from Bothell UMC** (including the Governing Board Off-Site, the Children's Ministry Retreat, the Lenten study, youth and children's events, choir practices, etc.) that gather at the church will be canceled. Gatherings that take place off-site should be done with **caution and at your discretion**. **tone: caution**

We will encourage **community groups** that meet at the church to follow the guidelines and recommendations above. However, each group will be **invited to make their own informed and wise decision**. Our staff is in contact with group leaders and working with them for the collective health of our **value: wisdom** community.

For calendar questions and **concerns**, please email Barb Donovan ([barb@bothellumc.org](mailto:barb@bothellumc.org)).

**tone: availability**

At this time, these practices will be in effect until March 14th. We will keep you up to date as information changes and with any decisions regarding church activities.

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**source: county**

**Refer** to the **King County health department page** for updates and questions about the virus and what to do if you feel ill.

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**value: community**

Please keep **our community, our health officials, healthcare providers, and those who are vulnerable in your prayers**, and know that **you and your family** are in ours.

**logistics: prayer**

**value: family**

In **Christ's Love**, **tone: love**

Pastor Joe, *Lead Pastor*

Eric Trott, *Current Governing Board Chair*

Becca Snyder, *Incoming Governing Board Chair*

Grayson Holmes, *Outgoing Governing Board Chair*

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