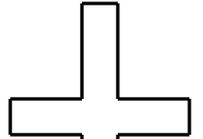


THE REFORMED CHURCH OF PORT EWEN

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12 March 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

The consistory of the Reformed Church of Port Ewen has decided to put two policies — one regarding cancellations, and another regarding safe practices during Sunday worship — in place regarding the Coronavirus, out of an abundance of caution and in case of an outbreak in Ulster County.

At this time, since there is still no local ban on public gatherings, we will continue with our regular worship and meetings.

Please read both policies to be aware of what our plan is moving forward. Thank you!

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen Coronavirus Cancellation Policy

- ❖ In the event of a government mandated ban on public gatherings to contain the spread of a Coronavirus outbreak, all services and meetings at the Reformed Church of Port Ewen will be canceled until further notice. We will make every effort — by phone tree and email — to notify you about cancellations in a timely manner.

The Reformed Church of Port Ewen Coronavirus Policy for Sunday Worship

- ❖ Hand sanitizer will be placed at each entrance/exit to the sanctuary for Sunday worship. We ask that you sanitize your hands both as you enter and exit the church.
- ❖ The church will be sanitized (pews wiped down, door handles/knobs cleaned, etc.) once a week between Sunday services.
- ❖ Avoid shaking hands, kissing, or hugging. To that end we are suspending the liturgical practice of the passing of the peace until further notice. While you may not feel this necessary for yourself, we are taking this action to protect the most vulnerable of our church community.
- ❖ Communion services will be adapted in the following way: elders and deacons will distribute the bread while wearing gloves, handing each person a piece of bread. Elders and deacons will distribute individual cups while wearing gloves, handing each person a cup. Those preparing the elements before worship (the pastor, elders, etc.) will thoroughly wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and hot water before touching the cups, bread, or plates.
- ❖ If you feel ill, we request that you stay home and not attend church events until you are feeling better. Again, we ask this in order to protect the community and the most vulnerable among us.

In addition to these policies, in this confusing and fearful time, remember:

- ❖ In one of our Reformed confessions, *The Heidelberg Catechism*, the question is asked, “What is your only comfort in life and in death?” and the answer is given, “That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.” That is our ultimate hope, and it is a hope that is stronger than anything in this world, including a pandemic.
- ❖ Your pastor and your elders —Linda Bresnahan-McCarthy, Kathy Kinsch, Colleen Sutton, Ray Wells — are here for you! Even though we may be restricted in our face-to-face interactions, you are welcome to call any of us at any time if you are in need of pastoral care during this time.
- ❖ Please follow the health recommendations of local and national authorities. There are many verses in the Bible which speak to this, but especially I Peter 2:13-14 and Leviticus 13.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Kevin & the Consistory