

Dear Members and Friends of EMUMC,

As the entire world responds to the pandemic that is COVID 19, more and more information is being made available to us. Each news cycle brings with it updates regarding social distancing, virus testing, business and school closures, and perhaps most importantly the latest steps both taken and encouraged by the CDC...the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Washington.

Indiana and other State Health Departments so too are making rulings, to include halting in-house service at restaurants, the closing of gyms, and the limiting of group gatherings to less than 50. Indeed, this evening (March 16) myself and others will meet at the Union County Health Department to consider appropriate measures/responses that might yet limit the impact of the virus.

Accordingly, announcements will soon follow regarding our way forward as a Congregation. We are the Church of Jesus Christ, and we will not be taken hostage by fear or doubt. Likewise, we will educate ourselves as to best practice and faithful following. We are bio/psycho/social/spiritual beings. With these components in mind we will seek to serve God's People in ways that may best bring health to all, especially those Christ referred to as, "*the least, the last, and the lost.*"

Finally, let us not choose prayer as a last course of action, but the **FIRST** course, joining together...if not in person, ***IN SPIRIT***, as we claim as ours the healing that only God can bring.

In HIM,

Pastor Scott Bell