

How does coronavirus spread and how will it affect how we worship?

Suggested Guidance for FUMC in the coming months

The coronavirus is thought to spread mainly from person to person. This can happen between people who are in close contact with one another. Droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes may land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby, or possibly be inhaled into their lungs. For this reason, social distance from one another is, at present, the best means available to thwart transmission of this virus.

A person infected with coronavirus — even one with no symptoms — may emit aerosols when they talk or breathe. Aerosols are infectious viral particles that can float or drift around in the air for up to three hours. Another person can breathe in these aerosols and become infected with the coronavirus. This is why everyone should cover their nose and mouth when they go out in public as well as maintain a social distance.

Coronavirus can also spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects. For example, a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. There is no hard evidence that the virus is spread through food or liquids and in general, the virus appears to remain on hard nonporous surfaces (metal, wood, vinyl, plastic) longer than on soft porous surfaces (cardboard, paper, & most likely fabrics).

The ways and risks of transmission means that things will be done differently when we return to in-person worship at Franklin UMC.



You will be asked to register your attendance at each service. This is necessary to facilitate notification and tracking in the event of a positive COVID exposure.

Masks will be required. Gloves are not necessary nor recommended. Hand sanitizer will be provided at each doorway including entry into the sanctuary.

Worship will not include congregational singing at present due to risk of increasing aerosol droplets. Worship will include social distancing - seating at 6 foot intervals in family groups on alternating pews. (pay attention to the ushers' directions!) Worship will include communion in pews using individual pre-packaged communion elements. While the virus may not be transmitted by food/drink, minimizing close person to person contact is necessary to minimize transmission risk.

At this time, we may not be sure just when we'll return to worship together in-person but we are sure that at some point we will. Things may be different for us but, thankfully, our God is still the same!

If you leave home, know your Ws!

		
WEAR a cloth face covering.	WAIT 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.	WASH your hands often or use hand sanitizer.

@NCDHHS **#StayStrongNC**