COVID-19

Suggestions for Congregations

• Use hand sanitizer visibly at the communion table when preparing for communion distribution and after distribution.
• Make sure all vessels are thoroughly washed with soap and hot water. Some research suggests that metal rather than ceramic vessels are preferred.
• Avoid using intinction (dipping bread in cup) for communion for the time being.
• Consider sitting alternating rows and about 3 feet apart within the row.
• Greet one another with waves, bows, a hand over the heart or other ways that do not involve physical contact. Elbow bumps can also work as a handshake substitute.
• Provide soap and hand sanitizer in restrooms. Use disinfectant spray on hard surfaces including door handles.
• Clean the toys in the Sunday School and day care facilities after each class. (Mix one part bleach to 10 parts water.)
• Turn off water fountains and mark “do not use”.
• Coffee hour and feeding program volunteers are encouraged to wash hands carefully and handle food with plastic gloves or utensils.
• Alternative worship services may be possible using web-based conferencing services, Skype or Facebook Live. Your local internet provider may have options as well.
• Offer alternative ways of giving (online, giving apps, mail) with reminders in all communications.

(with thanks to the Presbyterian Church USA Disaster Assistance, the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.)