

As the body of Christ, the Session, members, and staff of East Liberty Presbyterian Church recognize and acknowledge that we are called to be a people of faith and to act faithfully to ensure the care, health and well-being of all of God's people including members, staff and our community. We respectfully acknowledge the World Health Organization's (WHO) designation of COVID-19/Coronavirus designation as a pandemic and it's wide and pervasive transmission, and the devastating and potentially deadly effects, particularly upon persons with pre-existing conditions, compromised immune systems and the elderly. So out of an abundance of caution and in our effort to act faithfully and responsibly, the Session and staff leadership of East Liberty Presbyterian Church will do our utmost to mitigate the spread or transmission of disease as follows:

WORSHIP

- As of the release of this document, all ELPC worship services will be held as scheduled. Members, community members who are ill or experiencing sickness of any type are respectfully asked to not attend services, meetings, or any church related events. However, we will continue to monitor the situation and may make other provisions if deem appropriate or necessary.
- To provide spiritual care and remain in community with those who are ill, unable to physically attend worship, or have a need to self-isolate for any reason, the 11:00 AM Sunday worship services are live streamed in real-time on Facebook or YouTube utilizing this link: <http://elpc.church/worship/stream-services/>
- The Wednesday evening Taize is available as a live stream on the following link: <https://elpc.sermon.net/>. Until further notice, one-on-one prayer and anointing will be suspended at Taize worship.
- Individuals attending worship service are advised to: maintain a healthy social distance of 3-6 feet from everyone other than those living in your household; sit in alternate rows as designated by signage; suspend the physical passing of the peace or handshaking of any type; utilize hymns printed in the bulletin; record their attendance utilizing the "tear off" provided in the bulletin; and, participate in the weekly offerings by coming forward in response to God's faithfulness.
- Until further notice, the administration of The Lord's Supper will be suspended.

ELPC MINISTRY PROGRAMS/MEETINGS

- ELPC Ministry programs with gatherings of 50 or fewer individuals will continue as scheduled. Examples of which include: Club 116, Hope Academy of Music and the Arts [individual lessons and small groups \(only\)](#), Sunday Church School classes, book studies, committee and ministry team meetings, after-worship events.
- Whenever possible, church groups, committees, and ministry teams are encouraged to reschedule or meet remotely.
- It may become necessary in the future to cancel any or all ministry programs and meetings as warranted to ensure the health and safety of our members, staff and community.

FOOD and WATER CONSUMPTION

- Until further notice, all communal food consumption is suspended. Commercially prepared, individually wrapped food may be served with one-week advance approval of the Director of Church Operations (Wil@coh.net) or the Facility Administrator (DebbieB@coh.net). They may also assist you with securing food, if needed.
- Communal water stations have been removed or should not be used until further notice.
- Bottled water will be provided as needed.
- The formal Fellowship time will be suspended until further notice. However, limited coffee service will be available before and after worship services in the usual locations. Please utilize the hand sanitizer provided prior to accessing the coffee.

STAFF

- Out of respect for the health and well-being of our staff, all staff persons who are sick or have household members experiencing coughing, sneezing, elevated temperature, chills, etc. are to report their illness to their supervisor as soon as possible and should not report to work. The exception being if the staff person has written and documented authorization by their health professional to return to work.
- Staff who experience negative financial consequences as a result of being ill and unable to work, will be compensated and assisted.
- As appropriate and as necessary, staff with access to needed tools will be allowed to work remotely if their health is compromised or they are concerned about infection.

COMMUNITY

- Effective immediately, no new community or outside group meetings will be scheduled to take place or held in the ELPC building until further notice. This includes, but is not limited to any or all concerts, group or community meetings, counseling or supportive services, caterers, 12-step groups.
- In order to mitigate the potential transmission of disease, group meetings and programs will be limited to gatherings of no more than 50 individuals.
- All currently scheduled events or meetings with anticipated gathering of 50 or more people of outside groups will be notified that their meetings/event will be cancelled, if it is deemed appropriate as a precaution to maintain a healthy environment.

FACILITY

- Everyone entering the building is required to sanitize their hands and sign in at the hospitality desk.
- Anyone demonstrating physical signs of illness will be asked to leave the building.
- To affect cleanliness as much as possible, hand sanitizer stations are available on every floor of the church, at the sign in desk, and soap and water are available in every restroom in the building.
- Church custodial and hospitality staff have instituted extra cleaning measures, including, but not limited to disinfecting all manual light switches, entrance doors, including but not limited, to the

Highland Ave entrance, staff lot entrance, Baum Blvd entrance, and all doors when they are actively utilized; restroom doors and knobs on every floor.

- Tables and chairs in every room will be cleaned and sanitized immediately following the conclusion of all meetings.
- All nursery surfaces and toys will be sanitized after every use.

This protocol is meant to serve as the beginning of our communication and effort to care for and ensure the health and safety of one another. Worsening conditions may necessitate the need or requirement to suspend all operations, programs and worship services, as well as, we look forward to easing these restrictions and limitations, as guided by local and national experts, authorities, and medical professionals, as well as our local and national ecclesial judicatories.

March 13, 2020