

Updated COVID-19 letter and policies, in text form for mobile readability:

Dear DPC members and friends,

I want to let all of you at **Darnestown Presbyterian Church** know about our plans to decrease the chances of spreading Covid-19 within the church.

- We are gathering a task group that includes Dr. Sally Belcher, a primary care physician, and Dr. Amy Jenkins, a program manager at DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) with expertise in, and responsibility for, combatting infectious disease threats and creating methods of rapid response for our national security. My plan as your pastor is to lean on our resident experts for evidence-based facts and not to either over-react to, or downplay, risks.
- We are putting in place a hygiene protocol for our leaders that includes frequent hand-washing and greeting one another without physical contact. Our Communion preparation and food preparation for fellowship events will be carried out with enhanced precautions including gloves and wiping down all surfaces with Clorox. We suggest that everyone wash hands frequently, refrain from touching your face, hugging or shaking hands with people outside your household, using drinking fountains, or leaving your house if you feel ill, until the virus is no longer spreading in our area.
- If you feel ill and cannot attend church, you can still watch and listen to the entire service. If you have been exposed to someone who has a high risk of having been infected with the coronavirus, then please stay at home and avoid all social situations including church for at least 14 days. You can go to [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and put Darnestown Presbyterian Church in the YouTube search window. If you subscribe, you will get an email notice when the video is posted, usually by Sunday afternoon.
- I will continue to carry out my pastoral visitation in hospitals, homes, and nursing homes using the infection control measures I learned as a hospital worker and have always practiced in ministry.
- We will pray for the best and plan for the worst case. If we face a pandemic that requires extensive social distancing or quarantines, we will continue to use our technology to provide a worship experience and continue church governance online. If we cannot safely meet together for worship, fellowship, and governance, we will encourage you to consider using the online giving method on our website, [darnestownpc.org](https://darnestownpc.org), or the U.S. mail, to maintain our church's financial health during a period of extreme social distancing.

We are blessed as a congregation with a history of resilience built into our church's DNA and a variety of gifts among our members that will get us through every challenge that comes our way. My meditation at this time comes from the sermon on the mount, Matthew 6:27, "can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" Rather than worry, we will act with discernment, faith, and reason.

In Christ,

Neill Morgan  
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