

14 March 2020

Dear Damariscotta Baptist Church Family,

As Christians, we are called to face each day and every trial and crisis with faith, hope and love. Whatever is coming, we must continue to encourage one another to do just that. At the same time, we must also be wise. Love for one another requires we seek to do whatever we can to help calm anxiety and help prevent the spread of disease.

The rapid spread of coronavirus COVID-19 is a public health crisis that has the potential to overwhelm our healthcare system and community resources, which can disproportionately affect those who are most vulnerable. Though only a few cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Maine at this time, we know that the virus spreads through person-to-person contact that is facilitated through public gatherings, and that the best way to combat the spread of the virus is to engage in social distancing.

The health and safety of those who are the most vulnerable in our church and community is our highest priority during this time. After prayerful consideration with leaders in the church, I want to let you know the steps DBC will be taking and the recommendations we are making, as we look toward our Sunday gatherings:

1. We are Suspending our Sunday Worship Services for the remaining Sundays in March. We plan to resume on April 5th, Palm Sunday, depending on how things progress with COVID-19.
2. We ask that you prayerfully continue to support our church family with your weekly giving. You can send a check to the church at PO Box 248, Damariscotta, Maine 04543, thank you.

The CDC has information about what to do if you are feeling sick, and have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>

We also encourage you to continue to look out for one another within the body of Christ, and for our neighbors, co-workers and friends. Even if you aren't concerned, there are likely others around you who are. If you become sick, please consider contacting the church and letting me know, so that we can be praying for you and checking in. I will keep in touch with a weekly letter and look forward to when we can worship together again, in person. And let's keep praying for the world. Even if the worst projections never materialize here in Maine, many around the world are already being affected. This is an opportunity for the Church around the globe to show the love of God, as we love our neighbors as ourselves.

Joyfully,

Pastor Marilee

*"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*

I Peter 5:7