

## **A message from the Board of Deacons and the Parish Care Team regarding pastoral visits**

Our congregation is blessed to have pastors who are committed to providing "in home" visitation if requested by any member or friend of this congregation. This is no less true even during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in the interest of protecting the pastors from infection, of minimizing the risk of their introducing infection to a household, and of preventing the inadvertent transmission of infection to their households and other households, we are requiring that the pastors and households to be visited adhere to the following practices:

- The pastor and the visitee and any other persons in attendance during the visit will wear a mask covering the nose and mouth snugly. If wearing such a mask results in respiratory distress, it may be removed but the visit may be terminated at the pastor's discretion.
- All persons in attendance at the time of the visit will maintain social distancing (minimum of six foot separation). Family members living with the visitee may, of course, be closer to their relative. Physical contact between the pastor and the visitee/attendees will be avoided.
- Pastors are advised not to visit households with known active COVID-19.
- If anyone involved in the visit subsequently develops symptoms of COVID-19 (see below) or tests positive for COVID-19, this will be reported to the other parties expeditiously.
- The pastors are advised to limit the visit to 15 minutes but may, at their discretion, extend it if doing so seems in the best interest of providing effective pastoral care.

We trust that these practices will be honored by all members and friends of this congregation. If anyone has an objection to or suggestion regarding these principles, we would appreciate it if you would contact the following persons:

Larry Atkins, Chair of the Board of Deacons  
Kim Itz, Chair of the Parish Care Team

Possible symptoms of COVID-19 (not inclusive):

- New or worsening cough
- Fever over 100.3 Fahrenheit
- New or increasing shortness of breath
- New loss of the sensations of smell or taste