



INDEPENDENT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you.

Certainly, these are anxious times, and we are holding each of you in our prayers as the news regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) continues to unfold. At IPC, we are carefully monitoring the latest information, which changes almost daily, and have diligently considered the practices other churches throughout our country are implementing in order to ensure members' health.

Although at the time of this writing there are no known cases of the virus in Alabama, we think it prudent to adopt the following precautions in all our worship services beginning this coming Sunday, March 15:

- **We will not pass the offering plates in worship.** Instead, ushers will be holding the plates and standing by the doors after worship, and you can drop your offering there on your way out. In keeping with our Lenten observance, acolytes will be standing with the ushers to hand you a prayer card.
- **We will no longer practice communion by intinction.** It is standard practice at Wednesday chapel and The Table evening worship to come forward and dip bread into the cup. Moving forward, individual pieces of bread will be distributed, servers will wear gloves, and individual cups of juice will be offered.
- **We will also alter communion practices for Sunday morning worship.** More information will be released about those changes as we get closer to the first Sunday in April.
- **We will not observe the passing of the peace.** We will simply ask you to be seated following the prayer of confession and assurance of pardon.

Furthermore, additional measures are being taken throughout the church:

- Our cleaning supplies have been upgraded to ensure our sanitation is conducted to maximum effectiveness, and our busiest spaces, including our children's classrooms, are cleaned even more frequently.
- Trash cans have been placed near the entrance of each restroom, so that doors can be opened with paper towel in hand and then conveniently dropped in the garbage.

Of course, we continue to advise anyone who is feeling even slightly unwell to remain at home. Both our 8:45 and 11:00 Sunday services are live-streamed, and may be viewed on Facebook, YouTube, or through our website. Offerings may be submitted by mail, online at ipc-usa.org/give or through the ShelbyNEXT app.

If the situation in Birmingham changes, we have more plans in place that may be implemented should the need arise. In the meantime, our ministries will continue, conscientiously and prayerfully.

Jesus said, “Do not be afraid.” This commandment is sometimes easier to follow than others. However anxious you may be feeling, know that you are held in our prayers, and that we are working to ensure that whenever you enter IPC, we have prepared for your arrival.

In Christ,
Your IPC Staff