

COVID-19

March 20, 2020

The church finds itself in a strange place today. Jesus calls us to be together—to draw closer and closer to each other. To love each other. To care for each other. To serve each other. To worship with each other.

And now it is being recommended that, for a time, for the good of our health and that of each other, we practice what they are calling social distancing. It is contrary to everything we have ever learned about life in a Christian community, like this church.

But we will do it. We will try to stay six feet from each other. For now. We will not shake hands here, or touch each other, or even be close enough to touch each other. For now.

But we are faithful people—not fearful people. Much of faith is simply trust in God's goodness. So we will follow the rules, not because we are afraid, but because we love each other, and we want to do our part to make sure we aren't doing anything to put our friends and neighbors at risk.

I am not suggesting that we take this matter lightly, at all. It could turn out to be a very serious problem in this country—and even in this county—as it has been in other places. But maybe the measures we are taking will help make it something less than that. I just want us to remember to take this matter—to consider this matter—as we do all others—as faithful Xians who have a mission in the world and in this community.

All of us will respond to this situation differently. And that is as it should be. But it will be our job to always respond—first of all—as followers of Jesus, who has called us to lives of faith and love, of mercy and service.

God be with you.

Brian Jones