



CAMLACHIE UNITED CHURCH

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March 14, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Many people are concerned about the COVID-19 crisis. Some others are wondering what our response is at Camlachie Church. The short term answer is simple. We will be worshipping as usual on Sunday March 15th.

There are about 100 cases of the virus in Canada and many of them are already quarantined. The disease is cold- or flu-like in nature and poses little danger – other than discomfort – to most people. As far as we know there are no cases of COVID-19 in Lambton County. So, there is no need for fear, panic, or knee-jerk reactions.

Some people have cited Grace United Church's decision to close as an example to follow. As they have a large congregation, we can only guess that they have chosen to follow Health Canada's recommendation to cancel all gatherings of 250 people or more. Alas, as someone said about their own congregation, "We are too small to close."

Admittedly some socially communicable diseases have the possibility of spreading quickly. However, most diseases follow a predictable trajectory over a somewhat longer period of time. Here at the church we will monitor the situation week by week to see how it unfolds and will act appropriately. If the situation warrants and it seems prudent to suspend services for a brief period of time, we will do so.

For the near future, we will continue to worship at Camlachie Church. If the situation changes, we will try to give you due and timely notice about "what is happening at Camlachie Church."

In the hope of protecting others, we would ask that if you are feeling unwell that you refrain from attending church functions. Nobody enjoys being sick. We would encourage those of you, who may have a greater health risk, whatever the reason may be, to exercise due diligence and caution. Either way, fear not: we love you all and will save your place here at Camlachie Church.

Thanks, Brothers and Sisters, for your kind consideration. We wish you good health and Godspeed in the days and weeks to come.

Warmly,

David Van Patter