

COVID-19 UPDATE FROM PASTOR MATT - Monday, March 16

Hello Church Family & Friends,

By order of the Bishop and in the best interest of public safety, all church activities at Hilltop United Methodist Church are postponed until further notice. This will be in effect from now through the month of March (and potentially longer). We will know how to respond better in due time.

Here is what this means moving forward. There will be no in-person worship services, no meetings, no bible studies, no connect groups, no youth group, no confirmation, no Wednesday night meals, no office hours, etc. All funerals will be conducted privately or postponed until a later date when a memorial service can take place.

All public worship will stream online at the church's [YouTube page](#).

Here is a list of some upcoming items that are also canceled/postponed:

March 23 – Southern Prairie District Gathering (potentially moved to online)

April 10 – Good Friday Cantata

April 18 – Pork Feed

April 25 – Breakthrough Workshop with Dr. Mark Teasdale

Should you need emergency pastoral care or assistance, please call the church's emergency phone number at [507-201-9241](tel:507-201-9241). For all other non-emergencies, please email Administrator Michelle Behsman at office@mankatohilltop.org or Pastor Matt at matt@mankatohilltop.org. The church office is closed and will only be open by appointment until further notice. Voicemail messages will only be checked once or twice per week depending on availability, so please email Michelle or Pastor Matt for a more immediate response. We will be sending out regular email updates on Thursday afternoons - subscribe to our weekly update below.

While the church has shut down, please know that ministry continues. There are needs and prayer concerns being shared on the [Facebook group](#) (which is different than our Facebook page). There is currently an urgent need through the [Backpack food program](#) which provides food for families in need. Also, thank you for your continued financial

support. Even though the building is closed, we will be responding to many ministry needs. I will post ministry needs on the Facebook page. There have been SEVERAL needs in just the past week alone. We cannot do this without your financial support as well. You can make an [extra gift on our website](#) or you can always mail a check too. In these trying times, God is counting on us to be the support Mankatoians need. Thank you to everyone who can make an extra gift of any amount.

Friends, as the Bishop has said in [his message to the Minnesota churches](#), these are unprecedented times. Yet, in the midst of all that is happening in our world, I know that God remains faithful. When the world is in chaos, I often turn to [Psalm 46](#) "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Pastor Matt Sipe