

NSC Update – March 19, 2020

Dear New South,

Check out what some of us are doing in response to this “event” of which we’re in the midst:

John Slider (Louisville – Breckenridge Chapel) is posting entire on-line worship services...[click here](#).

I’m also posting video messages for each Sunday – accessible [here at YouTube](#), and [also here at our Truchcasting Channel, where all WFMC audio messages are posted](#).

At Wilmore, we are also:

- Allowing our nursery area to be used as a day-care for the children of those who attend to those at our neighbor, Thomson Hood Veterans’ Center – a large state care home for hundreds of veterans.)
- Our Bible Quiz teams are practicing through Zoom video conferencing.
- Special teams have been organized to check weekly +/- on church members (and especially those most vulnerable to sickness) and to help break the isolation and loneliness.
- This weekend we will post a new roadside banner – one side saying, “*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him... ~ Romans 15:13,*” and the other side saying, “*Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. ~ 1 Peter 5:7*”

What sorts of unique ways are you ministering to your communities and to one another in these strange days? Tell me and I’ll share it with others as a means of encouragement and ideas!

The New South MEG and BOA are meeting this weekend via Zoom to do some business and to make plans for Annual Conference (or not.) More to come about all that.

Finally today, a word from Martin Luther, who wrote nearly 500 years ago about responding to pandemics. When he was confronted by questions about how to respond to The Black Death plague, he responded in words that should serve to inform our approach to the pandemic crisis our nation and the world is now facing today.

In a letter to Rev. Dr. John Hess, found in Luther’s Works, Volume 43 p. 132, as “Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague,” Luther writes:

*“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”*