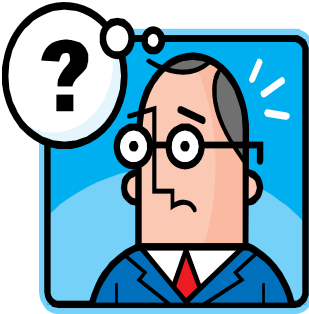


Be Prepared...

PANDEMICS



FLU – (Facing Life’s Unknowns) is a new committee within the Presbytery of Charlotte combining individuals from our Congregational Nurture, Health Ministries Team and the Community Disaster Response Team Committees which will now be titled Task Force for FLU – (Facing Life’s Unknowns). The focus of FLU will be educating and providing information to our congregations regarding – a Pandemic – whether it be the Bird Flu or something else, we are told it is not “if BUT when.” We do not want to Panic but we do want to Prepare. There will be information provided in our Weekly Updates and through our website to help congregations to prepare as they see fit.

AS YOU PLAN, IT IS IMPORTANT TO THINK ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THAT YOU MIGHT FACE, PARTICULARLY IF A PANDEMIC IS SEVERE...

- Prepare backup plans in case public gatherings, such as volunteer meetings and worship services are cancelled.
- Consider how to care for people with special needs in case the services that rely on are not available.
- Find out if you can work from home.
- Ask your employer about how business will continue during a pandemic. (A Business Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist is available at www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/businesschecklist/html.)
- Plan for the possible reduction or loss of income if you are unable to work or your place of employment is closed.
- Check with your employer about leave policies.
- Help schools plan for pandemic influenza. Talk to the school nurse or the health center. Talk to your teachers, administrators, and parent-teacher organizations.
- Plan home learning activities and exercises. Have materials, such as books, on hand. Also plan recreational activities that your children can do at home.
- Consider childcare needs.
- Think about how you can rely less on public transportation during a pandemic. For example, store food and other essential supplies so you can make fewer trips to the store.
- Prepare back up plans for taking care of loved ones who are far away.
- Consider other ways to get to work, or, if you can, work at home.
- Think about what information the people in your workplace will need if you are a manager. This may include information about insurance, leave policies, working from home, possible loss of income, and when not to come to work if sick. (A Business Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist is available at www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/businesschecklist.html.)
- Meet with your colleagues and make lists of things that you will need to know and what actions can be taken.
- Find volunteers who want to help people in need, such as elderly neighbors, single parents of small children, or people without the resources to get the medical help they will need.

Please contact Debbie Wilkinson at the Presbytery of Charlotte (704-535-9999 X213 or 800-926-1537) if you have questions.