Sanitizing Congregational Spaces

Below is a summary of the tips for Sanitizing Congregations as recommended to us by Ted Moffett. We hope this information will be helpful as you continue to focus on the health and safety of your congregants.

- The first step is to evaluate your worship space and identify any place that human hands could touch and consequently spread the virus. You really need to take time to evaluate this.

- Next you should create your own program for how you are going to treat these areas. Different areas may require different activities.

- We are being told that this virus can live on a contact surface for 72 hours, so if your areas are being occupied at any time by just a few people, then every time someone enters an area, it must be re-sanitized. If your areas are unoccupied then there is no need to treat after the initial treatment.

- Any solution that is approved by the EPA for use as a disinfectant will be effective. The pre-mixed spray and wipes are easier as the levels of chemicals are pre-mixed and 99.999999% effective. However, these materials are more expensive and less expensive such as chlorine at the suggested label strength on the container are just as effective.

- MORE IS NOT BETTER!!! Never use any chemical at any strength higher that what the EPA has regulated on the chemical label or SDS. The EPA classifies any disinfectant used at higher that the label allowance as a Pesticide.

- Any of the alcohol based products that are on the market for use are effective. Chlorine used at label strength is effective and less expensive are good for large areas such as floors, tables, etc. However, Chlorine is corrosive and will damage soft metals such as aluminum, gold, etc. Be careful not to use chlorine on these surfaces.

- Be sure not to forget linens when you are cleaning as they can become harborages as well.

- The covers of hymnals and pew bibles should be wiped down using a disinfectant on a clean cloth. Be careful to have the cloth damp and not dripping with solution.
Sanitizing Congregational Spaces Cont.

- Areas to be disinfected:
  » Pews
  » Doorknobs
  » Toys in the nursery
  » Floors
  » Bathrooms
  » Office equipment
  » Communion tools
  » Tables where anyone may have eaten, coughed, sneezed, etc.
  » All food serving areas
  » Any place else where people may have touched, coughed or sneezed.

*This is not an exclusive list and each church will be different.*