

# VACCINE EQUITY

## PULPIT TOOLKIT

# 2023

PREVENTION & VACCINATIONS

KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN

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# 2

## INTRODUCTION

THEORY OF CHANGE  
IT'S ON 'TIL LIBERATION  
BLACK FAITH, BLACK  
POWER  
FROM THE PULPIT TO THE  
PEWS

# 7

## OVERVIEW

KEEPING THE DOORS  
OPEN

# 13

## FAITH IN ACTION

LESSONS LEARNED FROM  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
AND WHY THE CHURCH  
MUST ACT

# 27

## MEDIA KIT

MESSAGING THAT  
MOVES

# 31

## PREACHERS & THE PEWS

LITURGICAL SUPPORT

# 39

## RESOURCES

## Testimony to Truth

Rooted in Black Faith and Liberation Theology, voice is given as testimony to the impact of systemic racism by those most impacted. This witness is not performative pain, but a truth-telling moving toward liberation.

## Equity and Transformation

As organizing gathers force and the community begins to see evil structures crumble and changes begin to advance, we also bear witness to black joy, discipleship, and calling. In this context, individuals are healed (saved) by the power of community, by evolved community.

## Community As Wellness

Those most impacted identify evil and injustice as communities help shape the prophetic demands for just public policy.

LAMENT

PROPHETIC  
OUTCRY

THEORY OF  
**CHANGE**

LIBERATION

## Healing By Community

While never complete, we bear witness to the signs of kin-dom as just policies are established and systems are transformed. We see the Prophetic Outcry now as visionary.

SALVATION

RITUALS OF  
RESISTANCE

## Organize, Organize, Organize

The Prophetic Outcry is given strategy and tactics to directly target the systems producing pain. Healing is the complete transformation of the system, as well as the realization of the prophethood or power of the people.



## Sisters and Brothers,

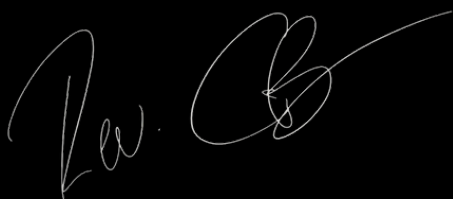
COVID-19 has devastated this country with New Jersey having the ninth highest number of confirmed cases in the United States. Of all the communities throughout New Jersey, and across this country, Black communities were most vulnerable, experiencing higher mortality rates due to racial disparities associated with income, education and the need for public health policies that address structural racism.

For this reason, we count on you, the Black church, to stand in the gap as credible messengers for not only your congregations, but also your surrounding communities at large, spreading trustworthy messaging around COVID-19, vaccination and workers rights.

The pandemic continues to shine light on decades of worsening healthcare and economic inequality. Much of the nation was able to shelter in place during the peak of the pandemic on the backs of essential workers, who completed critical work under difficult and unsafe working conditions. Black essential workers were and still are working in roles such as nursing assistants, home health aides, and as childcare workers providing emergency child-care. These essential jobs are held by a disproportionate number of Black workers, especially Black women – who are often paid poverty wages and offered few, if any, benefits such as health insurance or earned sick leave. In addition to this, most essential workers are eligible for New Jersey Temporary Disability, Family and Earned Sick Leave benefits but are often uninformed about their rights. Misinformation and disinformation has literally proven to be deadly to our communities.

Our history shows that there is no place where the loss of life and economic devastation is felt more than in the working-class and poor Black communities; however, history has also shown that the Black church stands as the pillar of our communities, and, through a theology of liberation, has been able to educate and empower communities, save lives and effect change. When and while you gather we challenge you to prophetically and spiritually educate your congregations about resources, their rights and getting vaccinated. There could not be a more affirming need for the engagement of the Black church to help our community overcome this devastation.

It's On 'Til Liberation,



**Rev. Dr. Charles F. Boyer**

Greater Mt. Zion AME Church, Senior Pastor  
Salvation and Social Justice, Executive Director



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

by the Spirit of God call both Jesus and that no man can say that Jesus but by the Holy Ghost. Now these sides of gifts, but the same Spirit are differences of administrations, Lord. And there are diversities, but it is the manifestation of the Spirit, but the manifestation of the Spirit, every man to profit withal. For by the Spirit the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge by the Spirit, the word of faith by the same Spirit, another faith by the same Spirit, another healing by the same Spirit, gifts of working of miracles; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, kinds of tongues; to another, divers kinds of tongues. But a pretation of tongues. But a that one and the self-same every man severally as he will.

THE GOSPEL. 8. LE

AND when he was come city, and wept over it, known, even thou, at least things which belong unto they are hid from thine, shall come upon thee, they cast a trench about thee, round, and keep thee in, lay thee even with the ground, within thee; and they one stone upon another, not the time of thy into the temple, and there sold therein, and there them. It is written, prayer: but ye have And he taught daily.

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

THE COLLECT.

O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power most chiefly in shewing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EPISTLE. 1. COR. XV. 1.

BRETHREN, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand: by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures; and that he was seen of Cephas; then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep: after that, he was seen of James; then of all the Apostles: and last of all, he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the Apostles, that am not meet to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.



# BLACK FAITH BLACK POWER

Praise the Lord,

The doors of Church and Houses of Faith are open, and goal is to keep them open. I am the Reverend Dr. Natalie Mitchem and I serve as the Executive Director of the International Health Commission of the AME church, Pastor of Quinn Chapel AME Church, and I am a Health Manager and Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. The COVID-19 pandemic was an unprecedented event in this century, and we are all still sadden and grieving over the millions of lives lost worldwide. The faith-based community and society at-large is still struggling with the new normal and lingering effects of COVID-19.

The question is, what has the faith-based community learned from this experience and are we ready to accept our role in public health advocacy? Or have we returned to business as usual and not implementing or sharing disease prevention information to help keep the doors of the church open.

*"What good is it, my brothers, and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." James 2: 14-17 NIV*

During the pandemic we learned about several helpful **"faith in action tools"** to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The tools included washing hands, wearing face masks, regular and intentional cleaning of shared items (i.e., door knobs, microphones), vaccinations, healthy food choices, managing stress, daily fitness, and physical distancing. Post, COVID-19 pandemic, wearing face masks for example may not be necessary for all individuals. However, individuals diagnosis with COVID-19, or in high transmission areas, or during an outbreak in a church or gathering should wear face mask according to local Health Departments. In addition, understanding the public health role of vaccinations is important. Each of the tools in our **"faith in action prevention tool box"**, still have a place depending on the prevalence of COVID-19 or the transmission of other diseases in your city, county, state, local church, and house of faith.

The Pulpit toolkit is designed to assist all clergy with **"faith in action tools"** to promote disease prevention which in turn will promote a healthier congregation, reduce the risk of disease and germs spreading in churches and houses of faith, reduce number of congregates dying and suffering from preventable diseases and will help to keep the doors of the church open.

Grace and Peace,

*Dr. Natalie Mitchem*

**DR. NATALIE MITCHEM, ED.D., M.DIV., RDN**

Executive Director, International Health Commission AME Church  
Pastor of Quinn Chapel AME Church





*Congregants attend Easter Sunday services at a church in Baltimore.  
(Alex Edelman/AFP via Getty Images)*



# OVERVIEW

KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN



## GLOSSARY

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

## im•mu•ni•ty

[ i'myōōnədē ] Noun

*Protection from an infectious disease. If you are immune to a disease, you can be exposed to it without becoming infected.*



## im•mu•ni•za•tion

[ rahy-ter ] Noun

*A process by which a person becomes protected against a disease through vaccination. This term is often used interchangeably with vaccination or inoculation.*

## vac•cine

[ vak'sēn, 'vak,sēn ] Noun

*A preparation that is used to stimulate the body's immune response against diseases. Vaccines are usually administered through needle injections, but some can be administered by mouth or sprayed into the nose.*

## vac•ci•na•tion

[ ,vak sə'nāSHən ] Noun

*The act of introducing a vaccine into the body to produce protection from a specific disease.*

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/imz-basics.htm>

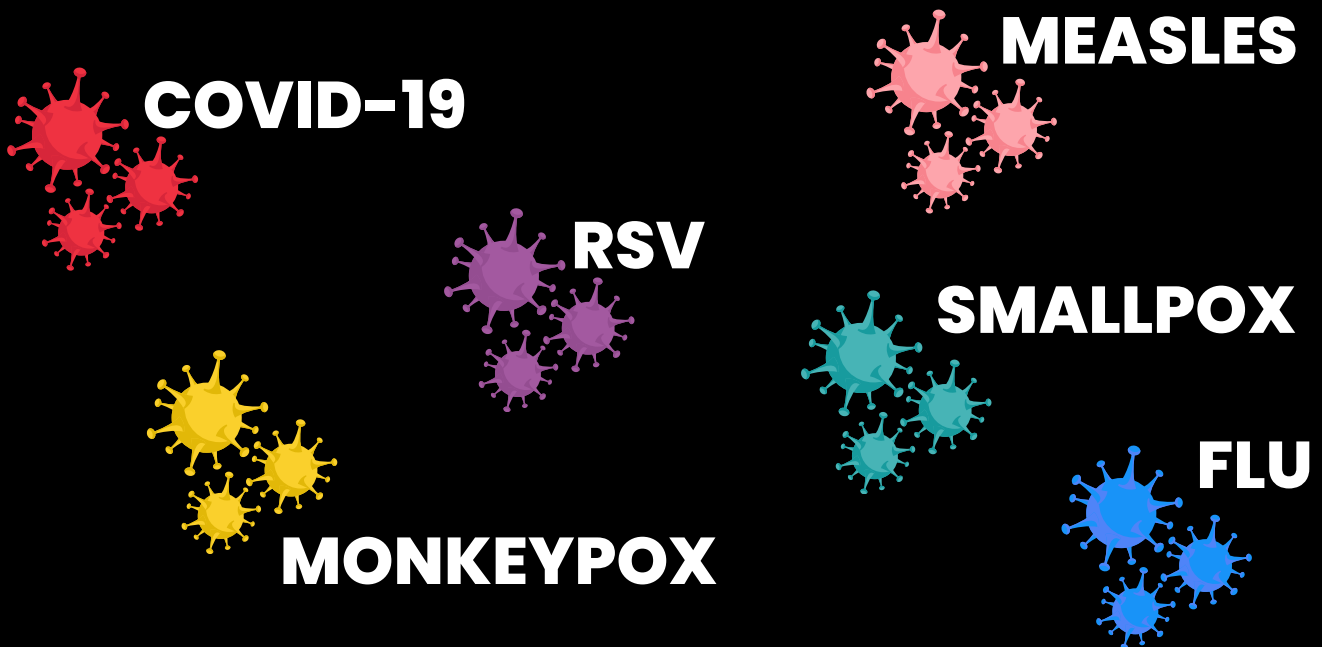
Last Reviewed: September 1, 2021 Source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases



## ACTIVITY

# HOW GERMS SPREAD

On a piece of paper have all members write one of following:



Ask everyone to fold the paper in half and pass it to someone sitting in front or next to them. Tell them not to open the paper to until the end of your sermon or bible study.

**When they open the paper...they will see how easy a germ can spread to others, even in church.**

# Create environment in church to promote prevention and vaccinations

*James 2: 17-19*

## Clergy, Leaders, and Trustees:

- Sick members or clergy should stay home
- **Hand Washing – Best Defense**
- Disinfect shared items (doorknobs, restrooms)
- Create a face mask friendly church for those that want to wear face mask
- Hybrid services/events offer an opportunity for those who are sick or not sure to stay home
- Food Safety courses (ServSafe) (Why? Coughing, sneezing, fever). When members prepare food, some may not know they are sick and should not be preparing food for others. Recommend -  
\*Catering/Take Out/Store Bought food for all events & Food Safety courses
- Pay attention to the local news and how a disease or virus may be spread and activate the necessary preventive steps at church (face mask, extra cleaning, physical distancing, ensure extra tissues, hand sanitizer, on nice days open windows)
- **Vaccinations – provide information, resources, local Health Departments may offer free or low-cost vaccinations and onsite/virtual seminars.**

*Be aware members may choose not to get vaccinated, therefore ensure church cleaning protocol is in place to reduce the spread of germs at church events. Regular HVAC cleaning and filter changes.*

- Offer **Healthy Food Choices** at church events to help members reduce the risk of disease - African American rank the highest due to pre-existing diseases and support healthy immune systems
- **Establish an active Health & Wellness ministry** that will support and provide ongoing information and resources

## Individually and At Home:

- Wash your hands regularly and before you eat.
- Be wise about hugging non-family members and hand shaking at work/public/ church. Fist bump or verbal greetings
- A good cleaning schedule following family gatherings and for the holidays
- Create a face mask friendly home or holiday gathering for those that want to wear a face mask
- Leave space between you and others in public
- If you are sick stay home
- Be honest – if an event requires proof of vaccination, provide accurate information
- **Vaccinations – be informed and talk to your healthcare provider**
- **Make healthy choices to support a strong immune system – Healthy Food (Plant-Based Foods), Manage Stress, Plenty Rest/Sleep, Stay Hydrated, Fresh Air and Daily Activity**

# Lifestyle Choices to Boost Immunity

## Mind Your Stress

Pause. Take a few seconds to consider your breathing, listen to a favorite song, or watch a funny video. The stress hormone, cortisol, suppresses immune response. Being mindful, even in small doses, reduces stress and as a result, cortisol production.



## No Smoking

Avoid smoking, vaping, or inhaling any substance, which can be toxic to the lungs.



## Healthy Eating

What you eat makes all the difference! For strong immunity, consume a wide array of fiber-filled, nutrient-dense, and antioxidant-rich whole plant foods at every meal. Choose a rainbow of fruits and vegetables, eat your beans, consume whole grains, and use a variety of herbs and spices to enhance flavors. Stay hydrated with water!



## Activity

Regular, moderate physical activity is vital to keeping the immune system strong! While Physical Activity Guidelines recommend at least 30 minutes, 5 days a week, as little as 20 minutes can suppress inflammation and support immunity.



## Connectivity

Physical distancing is essential when contagious disease risks are high, but not at the expense of being isolated or lonely. Connect with friends and family via FaceTime, Zoom sessions, texting, and phone calls. Positive emotions, which are shown to improve immunity, arise from even brief, virtual social connections.



Increasing your body's immune response is not a guarantee against infection.

References:  
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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
Lifestyle Medicine

**Our body was created by God to fight and prevent disease.  
However, we must provide our body with the resources to  
fight and prevent disease.**

FAITH AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



Salvation  
and  
Social Justice  
Liberating Public Policy Theologically

APP



iOS  
users



Android  
users



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# FAITH THAT WORKS

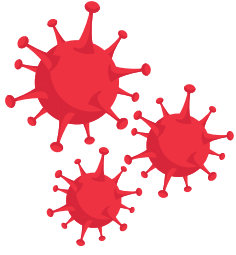
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
AND WHY THE CHURCH MUST ACT



A woman stands during worship at First Baptist Church of Glenarden on Sunday, April 3, 2022, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Photo courtesy of FBCG

13





# COVID-19

## The facts...

- COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is a disease caused by a virus named SARS-CoV-2 and was discovered in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. It is very contagious and has quickly spread around the world.
- COVID-19 most often causes respiratory **symptoms** that can feel much like a cold, a flu, or pneumonia. COVID-19 may attack more than your lungs and respiratory system. Other parts of your body may also be affected by the disease.
- Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, but some people become severely ill.
- Some people including those with minor or no symptoms may suffer from **post-COVID conditions** – or “long COVID”.
- Older adults and people who have **certain underlying medical conditions** are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- Hundreds of thousands of people have died from COVID-19 in the United States.
- Vaccines against COVID-19 are **safe and effective**. Vaccines teach our immune system to fight the virus that causes COVID-19.”

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19/basics-covid-19.html>





# The research...

*Pew Research Center*

- Authorities in nearly a quarter of all the countries and territories studied (46 out of 198, or 23%) used physical means, such as arrests and prison sentences, to enforce coronavirus-related restrictions on worship services and other religious gatherings.
- Religious groups filed lawsuits or spoke out against the public health measures in 54 of the 198 countries (27%). A common complaint was that some churches, mosques, synagogues and other houses of worship were treated unequally – either by comparison with secular gathering places, like shops and restaurants, or by comparison with other religious groups.
- In 69 countries and territories (35%), one or more religious groups defied public health rules related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In an even larger number of countries (94, or 47%), religious leaders or groups promoted public health measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus by encouraging followers to worship at home, observe social distancing or take other precautions, such as hand-washing and mask-wearing.
- News articles and other information sources identified 55 countries (28%) where government officials and religious groups collaborated on efforts to stem the pandemic. In some countries, different religious groups both defied and promoted lockdowns or other public health restrictions."

# The symptoms...

People with COVID-19 had a wide range of symptoms reported -- ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can mild to severe symptoms.

## **Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:**

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

# The research...

COVID-19 is caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. It is part of the coronavirus family, which include common viruses that cause a variety of diseases from head or chest colds to more severe (but more rare) diseases like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

Like many other respiratory viruses, coronaviruses spread quickly through droplets that you project out of your mouth or nose when you breathe, cough, sneeze, or speak.

# The variants...

As genetic changes to the virus happen over time, the SARS-CoV-2 virus begins to form genetic lineages. Just as a family has a family tree, the SARS-CoV-2 virus can be similarly mapped out. Sometimes branches of that tree have different attributes that change how fast the virus spreads, or the severity of illness it causes, or the effectiveness of treatments against it. **Scientists call the viruses with these changes “variants”. They are still SARS-CoV-2, but may act differently.**

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

# COVID-19 Is Here to Stay...

## How will we respond?

1. The age group for more most congregations and houses of faith fall within the age-limit of individuals that died or experienced life changing health challenges, hospital stays or Long-COVID-19. **What is the average age of your congregation or house of faith?**

2. Creating a disease prevention program and practice in churches/houses of faith is imperative? Health Departments and other licensing agency for public spaces (i.e., restaurants, hotels) where people gather require regular cleaning to prevent the spread of germs? **Does your church/house of faith have documented cleaning protocol that is used before and after every gathering and for all office/school/meeting space?**

3. Study to show your self approved ( 2 Timothy 2:15) the science regarding the COVID-19 vaccine was debate and is still being debated, however, history has shown vaccinations and immunizations have effectively reduced the incidence of many diseases (i.e., smallpox, measles, mumps, rubella). **Whether you agree with vaccination or immunization, do you provide education and resources for the congregation to make a personal informed decision?**

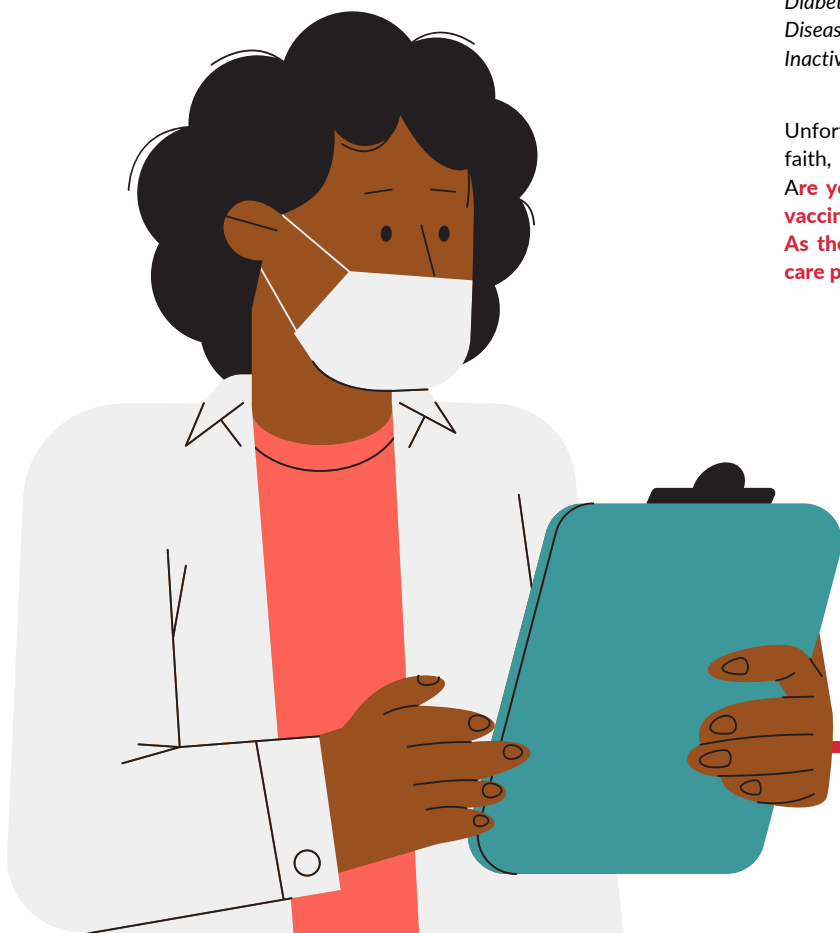
4. People of color and individuals with the following pre-existing diseases were and still are at the highest risk for COVID19 and other preventable diseases.

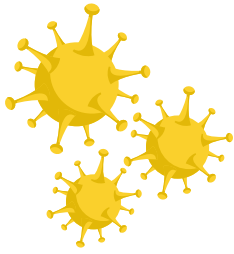
Diabetes Type 2 & 1, Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease, Lung Disease, Liver Disease, Heart Disease, HIV Infection, Obesity & Overweight, Smokers, Inactive People

Unfortunately, many of the members in our congregations and houses of faith, are living and suffering with these challenging health conditions. **Are you offering resources on disease prevention, immunizations and vaccinations, so the members can make informed self-care decisions? As the faith-based leader, what is your current health staff and self-care practice?**



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19/basics-covid-19.html>





# MONKEYPOX

## The facts...

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses as variola virus, the virus that causes smallpox. Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms, but milder, and monkeypox is rarely fatal. Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox.

Monkeypox was discovered in 1958 when two outbreaks of a pox-like disease occurred in colonies of monkeys kept for research. Despite being named “monkeypox,” the source of the disease remains unknown. However, African rodents and non-human primates (like monkeys) might harbor the virus and infect people.

The first human case of monkeypox was recorded in 1970. Prior to the 2022 outbreak, monkeypox had been reported in people in several central and western African countries. Previously, almost all monkeypox cases in people outside of Africa were linked to international travel to countries where the disease commonly occurs or through imported animals. These cases occurred on multiple continents.”

## The symptoms...

People with monkeypox get a rash that may be located on or near the genitals and could be on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth.

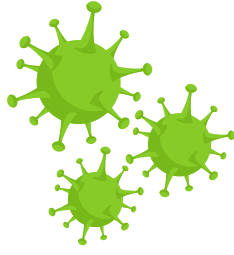
- The rash will go through several stages, including scabs, before healing.
- The rash can initially look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy.

### Other symptoms of monkeypox can include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Muscle aches and backache
- Headache
- Respiratory symptoms (e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, or cough)



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/about/index.html>



# SHINGLES

## The facts...

**Shingles** "is caused by varicella zoster virus (VZV), the same virus that causes chickenpox. After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus stays dormant (inactive) in the body. This virus can reactivate years later, causing shingles. 50 years and older maybe at risk who had chicken pox

### **Other symptoms of monkeypox can include:**

A person must have already had chickenpox in the past to develop shingles.

A person cannot get shingles from a person that has shingles.

However, the virus that causes chickenpox and shingles can be spread from a person with active shingles to a person who has never had chickenpox or had the chickenpox vaccine.

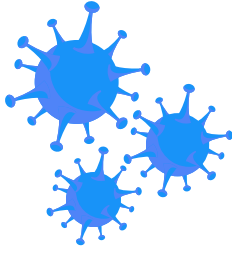
The person exposed to the virus would develop chickenpox, not shingles. A person with shingles can spread the virus when the rash is in the blister-phase. The blister fluid is filled with virus particles. The virus is spread through direct contact with the rash or through breathing in virus particles that get mixed in the air. Once the rash has developed crusts, the person is no longer contagious. A person is not infectious before blisters appear or if pain persists after the rash is gone (post-herpetic neuralgia).

## The symptoms...

- Pain, itching, or tingling of the skin followed by a
- Painful rash of blister-like sores, usually on one side of the body, often on the face or torso
- Fever
- Headache
- Chills
- Upset Stomach



Source: [https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/shingles/fact\\_sheet.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/shingles/fact_sheet.htm)



# The facts...

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. the best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.

## How Flu Spreads

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes.



# The symptoms...

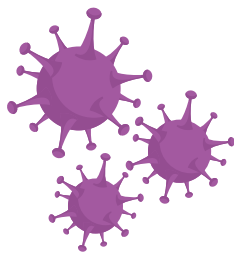
Influenza (flu) can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- fever\* or feeling feverish/chills
- cough
- sore throat
- runny nose or stuffy nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue (tiredness)
- some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults

UT  
FL

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/keyfacts.html>





# RSV

Respiratory syncytial virus

## The facts...

Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-uhl) virus, or RSV, is a **common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms**. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults. RSV is the most common cause of bronchiolitis (inflammation of the small airways in the lung) and pneumonia (infection of the lungs) in children younger than 1 year of age in the United States.

Most people who get an RSV infection will have mild illness and will recover in a week or two. Some people, however, are more likely to develop severe RSV infection and may need to be hospitalized. Examples of severe infections include bronchiolitis (an inflammation of the small airways in the lung) and pneumonia. RSV can also make chronic health problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks as a result of RSV infection, and people with congestive heart failure may experience more severe symptoms triggered by RSV.

## The symptoms...

### Infants and Young Children

RSV can be dangerous for some infants and young children. Each year in the United States, an estimated 58,000-80,000 children younger than 5 years old are hospitalized due to RSV infection. RSV may not be severe when it first starts. However, it can become more severe a few days into the illness. Early symptoms of RSV may include:

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Cough, which may progress to wheezing or difficulty breathing

### RSV in Older Adults and Adults with Chronic Medical Conditions

RSV infections can be dangerous for certain adults. Each year, it is estimated that between 60,000-160,000 older adults in the United States are hospitalized and 6,000-10,000 of them die due to RSV infection. When an adult gets RSV infection, they typically have mild cold-like symptoms, but some may develop a lung infection or pneumonia. RSV can sometimes also lead to worsening of serious conditions such as:

- Asthma
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) – a chronic disease of the lungs that makes it hard to breathe
- Congestive heart failure – when the heart can't pump enough blood and oxygen through the body

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/rsv/index.html>



# PROTECT YOUR CHILD from RSV



**Avoid close contact with sick people**



**Wash your hands often**

**Cover your coughs  
& sneezes**



**Clean & disinfect surfaces**



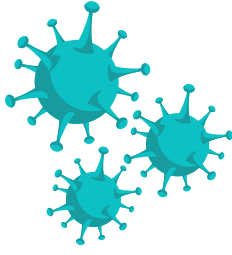
**Avoid touching your face  
with unwashed hands**



**Stay home when you're sick**



[www.cdc.gov/rsv](http://www.cdc.gov/rsv)



# SMALLPOX

## The facts...

Thousands of years ago, variola virus (smallpox virus) emerged and began causing illness and deaths in human populations, with smallpox outbreaks occurring from time to time. Thanks to the success of vaccination, the last natural outbreak of smallpox in the United States occurred in 1949. In 1980, the World Health Assembly declared smallpox eradicated (eliminated), and no cases of naturally occurring smallpox have happened since.

## The symptoms...

This stage lasts anywhere from 2 to 4 days.

*Contagious? Sometimes. Smallpox may be contagious during this phase, but is most contagious during the next 2 stages (early rash and pustular rash and scabs)*

### The first symptoms include:

- High fever
- Head and body aches
- Sometimes vomiting

At this time, people are usually too sick to carry on their normal activities.

**A rash starts as small red spots on the tongue and in the mouth.** These spots change into sores that break open and spread large amounts of the virus into the mouth and throat. The person continues to have a fever.

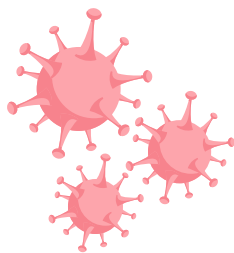
Once the sores in the mouth start breaking down, a rash appears on the skin, starting on the face and spreading to the arms and legs, and then to the hands and feet. Usually, it spreads to all parts of the body within 24 hours. As this rash appears, the fever begins to decline, and the person may start to feel better.

By the fourth day, the skin sores fill with a thick, opaque fluid and often have a dent in the center.

Once the skin sores fill with fluid, the fever may rise again and remain high until scabs form over the bumps.

The smallpox vaccine protects people from smallpox by helping their bodies develop immunity to smallpox. The vaccine is made from a virus called vaccinia, which is a poxvirus similar to smallpox, but less harmful. The smallpox vaccine contains live vaccinia virus, not a killed or weakened virus like many other vaccines. For that reason, people who are vaccinated must take precautions when caring for the place on their arm where they were vaccinated, so they can prevent the vaccinia virus from spreading.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/smallpox/symptoms/index.html>



# MEASLES

## The facts...

**Measles is a highly contagious virus that can lead to complications.** In the 9th century, a Persian doctor published one of the first written accounts of measles disease.

Francis Home, a Scottish physician, demonstrated in 1757 that measles is caused by an infectious agent in the blood of patients.

In 1912, measles became a nationally notifiable disease in the United States, requiring U.S. healthcare providers and laboratories to report all diagnosed cases. In the first decade of reporting, an average of 6,000 measles-related deaths were reported each year.

In the decade before 1963 when a vaccine became available, nearly all children got measles by the time they were 15 years of age. It is estimated 3 to 4 million people in the United States were infected each year. Also each year, among reported cases, an estimated 400 to 500 people died, 48,000 were hospitalized, and 1,000 suffered encephalitis (swelling of the brain) from measles.

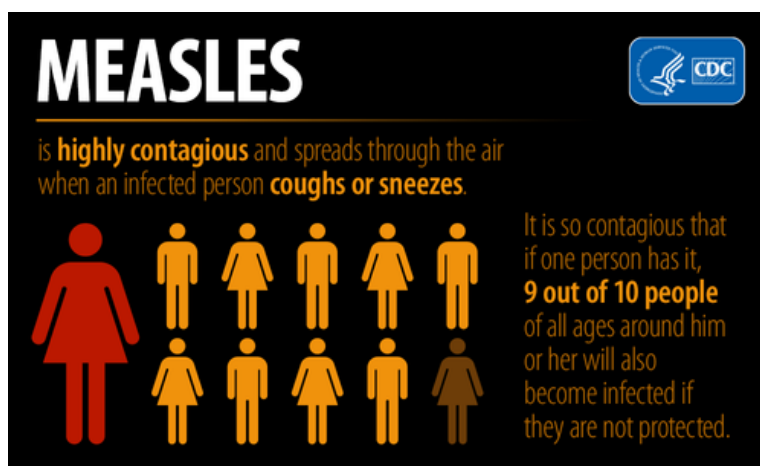
Measles can be prevented with MMR vaccine. The vaccine protects against three diseases: **measles**, **mumps**, and **rubella**.

## The symptoms...

Measles isn't just a little rash. Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children. Measles typically begins with:

- high fever (may spike to more than 104°)
- cough
- runny nose (coryza)
- red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)

Tiny white spots (Koplik spots) may appear inside the mouth two to three days after symptoms begin. Three to five days after symptoms begin, a rash breaks out. It usually begins as flat red spots that appear on the face at the hairline and spread downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs, and feet.



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/vaccination.html>

# Vaccines & Boosters

*Vaccines teach our immune system to fight the virus and germs (CDC)*

## COVID-19

- Bivalent Boosters (Moderna: 6 – years and up, Pfizer: 5 years and up) & Boosters may be recommended every year
- May be required for students in the future as part of the Immunization Schedule

## Monkey Pox

- Approved vaccination Monkey pox –if exposed to someone with Monkey Pox or to prevent if in an outbreak area. Male to male (same) sex partners appear to have a higher risk for monkey pox.

## Shingles

- Available at most doctor office and pharmacies

Source: [https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/shingles/fact\\_sheet.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/shingles/fact_sheet.htm)

## Flu

- available at most doctor's offices and pharmacies

## RSV

- No current vaccine

## Smallpox

- Routine smallpox vaccination among the American public stopped in 1972 after the disease was eradicated in the United States.

<https://www.cdc.gov/smallpox/vaccine-basics/index.html>

## Measles, Mumps & Rubella

- MMR vaccine is available at most doctor's offices and pharmacies



# GERMS CAN SPREAD ANYWHERE...

EVEN IN CHURCH – LET’S NOT IGNORE THE FACTS

HOSEA 4:6

**Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Learn when and how you should wash your hands to stay healthy.**

Washing hands can keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections. Germs can spread from person to person or from surfaces to people when you:

- Touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Touch surfaces or objects that have germs on them
- Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects

Church gathering for worship, fellowship, meetings, work, events and sharing items (mics, door handles) present a daily opportunity for the spread of germs and viruses. **Do you have plenty of soap and paper towels in stock and in all restrooms, hand sanitizers, tissues, and posters on how to prevent disease with vaccinations and clean hands?**







# MEDIA KIT

MESSAGING THE MOVES





# PULPIT TOOLKIT

V A C C I N E   E Q U I T Y



## Typography

### Poppins

Aa Thin

**Aa** Regular

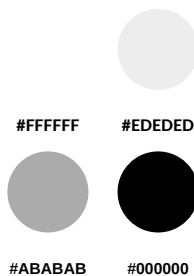
*Aa* Italic

**Aa** Bold

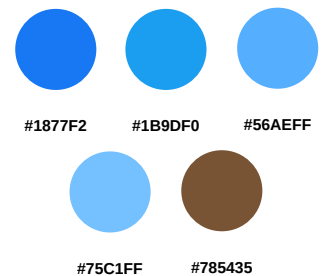
**Aa** Extra Bold

## The Color

### Primary



### Secondary



## Photos



# SOCIAL MEDIA POST

## TWITTER



**HASHTAGS: #FIGHTFLU  
#CLEANHANDSCLEANHEART  
#GETVACCINATED #STAYREADY**

Knowledge is power and understanding vaccines not only protects you, but your community, #Hashtag

COVID-19 is here to stay. Make sure you are vaccinated, not just for you, but for everyone. #Hashtag

It's just as important to have clean hands as it is to have a clean heart. It is important to get vaccinated and wash your hands.  
#Hashtag

Eligibility does not always equal access. We have to work to make sure we have structures in place so that everyone can be vaccinated.  
#Hashtag

Flu can be dangerous for people with some chronic conditions. A flu shot is the best protection against flu.  
#Hashtag

Know the signs. Know the symptoms. Stay healthy.  
#Hashtag

Our body was created God, but we have to put in the work to fight and prevent disease.  
#Hashtag

"Public health is public safety.  
#Hashtag

Germs can spread anywhere, even in church. #Hashtag

Germs can spread anywhere, even in church. #Hashtag

Life is full of choices and protecting the vulnerable in your community should be one of yours. #Hashtag

Understanding the role of vaccinations and public health improve public safety.  
#Hashtag

## FACEBOOK



Vaccines a protection and preventative measure to keep you healthy and out of the hospital. Stay ready so you don't have to get ready. #Hashtag

Black people are at a higher risk to contract COVID-19 because eligibility does not always equal access. Get vaccinated to protect yourself and those who cannot be. #Hashtag

Vaccines teach our immune system to fight the virus and germs. The COVID-19, Flu, Shingles, and Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccines are readily available at most doctors offices and pharmacies. Get vaccinated today! #Hashtag

Up to 70% of flu hospitalizations happen among adults 65 years and older. A flu shot is the best protection against flu's potentially serious complications. #Hashtag

About 1 in every 3 people who have had the chicken pox will get shingles in their lifetime. Getting vaccinated would prevent serious complications that worsen as you get older. Talk to your doctor about the vaccine today.  
#Hashtag

Vaccines are safe and effective, but we must acknowledge the harm that has come to Black communities because of them. Knowing the history is just as important as keep your community safe and healthy.  
#Hashtag

The burden of disease is often carried by Black communities. We need systemic protections for our communities so that we can stay safe and healthy.  
#Hashtag

The public health system is rooted in systemic racism and investing in community health means we're investing in ourselves. #Hashtag



# PREACHERS & THE PEWS

LITURGICAL SUPPORT





# FAITH & PRAYER

## FAITH

We trust God and at the same time we put our Faith in Action ([James 2:17-19](#)) – we can not ignore how germs are spread. Together as a church, nation, and individual we can help reduce outbreaks and prevent pandemics

- [It takes faith to get vaccinated & wear a face mask](#) – when you feel it is necessary for your own health or to protect others (if you test positive for COVID-19 – 5 to 10 day quarantine and face mask for 10 days in the public is the protocol
- [It takes faith to not get vaccinated and not wear a face mask](#) – in public, when you do not know who is, who is not vaccinated or who is who is not currently sick.
- [Let's not judge each others faith](#)....let's work together to prevent the spread of germs
- [Asking Jesus is an invitation and takes time for many to receive](#). Preaching and teaching about prevention and vaccinations, allows congregations to make an informed decision and demonstrates clergy take leadership in public health matters to help keep the church doors open.

## PRAYER

We can continue to pray the incidence of all contagious viruses from the past (i.e., smallpox, measles) and present, (COVID-19, Monkey Pox, Shingles, Flu, and RSV) will not reach pandemic levels, in Jesus' name, [Amen](#).

## Clergy [Accepting Their Role](#) in Public Health and Learning about Vaccinations

“African American clergy revealed that pastors feel strongly about the intersection of health, religion and spirituality; they also believe that discussing health screening and other health issues more frequently from the pulpit and their own personal experiences will ultimately impact health behavior among congregants. This study suggests that African American clergy see themselves as health promoters in the church and believe this communication (i.e., pastor-endorsed health information materials) will impact health behavior among underserved and minority populations.”

**Source:** Promoting Healthy Behavior from the Pulpit: Clergy Share Their Perspectives on Effective Health Communication in the African American Church  
Crystal Y. Lumpkins, K. Allen Greiner, Christine Daley, Natabhona M. Mabachi, and Kris Neuhaus

# Clergy Public Health

## Call to Action

## Scriptures

The scriptures provide a theological and historical background to help Clergy understand the role they play in Public Health.

### LEVITICUS 13: 1–6 (NIV)

**1** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

**2** “When anyone has a swelling or a rash or a shiny spot on their skin that may be a defiling skin disease, they must be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons who is a priest.

**3** The priest is to examine the sore on the skin, and if the hair in the sore has turned white and the sore appears to be more than skin deep, it is a defiling skin disease. When the priest examines that person, he shall pronounce them ceremonially unclean.

**4** If the shiny spot on the skin is white but does not appear to be more than skin deep and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest is to isolate the affected person for seven days.

**5** On the seventh day the priest is to examine them, and if he sees that the sore is unchanged and has not spread in the skin, he is to isolate them for another seven days.

**6** On the seventh day the priest is to examine them again, and if the sore has faded and has not spread in the skin, the priest shall pronounce them clean; it is only a rash. They must wash their clothes, and they will be clean.”

Source: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/leviticus/passage/?q=leviticus+13:1-6>



### LUKE 17:11–19 (NIV)

#### *Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy*

**11** Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

**12** As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy<sup>[a]</sup> met him. They stood at a distance

**13** and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

**14** When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

**15** One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

**16** He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

**17** Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?”

**18** Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?”

**19** Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2017%3A11-19&version=NIV>



Joe Raedle via Getty Images

# SCRIPTURES

## EPHESIANS 4: 11-16 (NIV)

**1** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

**12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

**13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

**14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

**15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

**16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%204%3A11-16&version=NIV>



Mary Altaffer—AP/Shutterstock.com

## ACTS 2: 42-47 (NIV)

### *The Fellowship of the Believers*

**42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

**44** All the believers were together and had everything in common.

**45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

**46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

**47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Source: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%202%3A42-47&version=NIV>



Photo by Marissa Leshnov for CalMatters

# BIBLE STUDY

## First Sunday in August or for Bible Study

**Deuteronomy 30: 11-19** along with **Leviticus 13: 1-6**, **Acts 2:42-47** & **Ephesians 4: 11-16**, & **Luke 17:11-19** present an opportunity for an annual Sermon or Bible Study series in the month of August – National Immunization Awareness Month

**National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)** is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. **Use these resources to assist you in communicating about vaccinations during August and throughout the year.**

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/index.html>

August is also **Clergy and Clergy Family Self-Care Month**

Source: <https://www.thechristianrecorder.com/clergy-and-clergy-family-wellness/>

## SERMON SERIES OR BIBLE STUDY SERIES

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday or Bible Study

*Leviticus 13: 1-6*

✓ **Pray, share and teach** how God and Bible teaches on the importance of clergy and congregation understanding our role in Public Health, Disease Prevention and the role of Vaccinations/Immunizations.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday or Bible Study

*Acts 2:42-47*

✓ From the Priest in the Old Testament to Jesus and the 10 lepers – **Clergy have played in important role** in Public health and salvation.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday or Bible Study

*Ephesians 4: 11-16, and/or Luke 17:11-19*

✓ Share resources



# DEUTERONOMY 30: 11-19 (NIV)

## *The Offer of Life or Death*

**11** Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.

**12** It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"

**13** Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"

**14** No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

**15** See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

**16** For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

**17** But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them,

**18** I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

**19** This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

## **TOPIC: The Choice is Yours!**

God does not force us to choose Him or Jesus or Holy Spirit, and this should be a guiding factor in a sermon or bible study. God allows humans to make the right decision, therefore, keep lifting up Jesus, preaching the Good News, and providing the resources so members can make an informed decision.

## **Keypoint #1: Our Choices Impact Our Health and Our Life!**

- Open with saying - COVID-19 is here to stay, however, we are not without hope and choices. God has given us the ability to make choices. Today, we are starting a series on Keeping the Church Doors Open
- Consider what **Deuteronomy 30: 11-19** says about commands, decrees, and laws, this could be related to choosing to get vaccinated or not. It is not the law to get vaccinated as an adult, however, school-age individuals are required to show proof of vaccination or religious exception. The commandments were created to help humans honor God and learn how to live together in society. (You shall not steal, etc...). Vaccinations help to reduce the spread of disease in society.

## **Keypoint #2: The Choice is Yours!**

- Deuteronomy 30:11-14 - indicates our ability to make choices for ourselves and family is within reach - it is near.
- Prevention is near - Public Health information on the Prevention of disease, the spread of germs, and vaccinations information is near and available
- Consider sharing the history of vaccinations - 1400s to 1700s
  - From at least the 15th century, people in different parts of the world have attempted to prevent illness by intentionally exposing healthy people to smallpox - a practice known as variation (after a name for smallpox, 'la variole'). Some sources suggest these practices were taking place as early as 200 BCE". <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/a-brief-history-of-vaccination>
- Many people over the age of 50 received the smallpox vaccination. Ask everyone 55 and up to look at their left shoulder. Point out that vaccinations do work. Today there is a lot of debate, and questions, like in the bible days, therefore invite everyone to do their own your research, and remember the choice is yours!

## **Keypoint #3: ...for those who like 3 points**

- You could talk about choosing salvation and Jesus.
- You can remind everyone that life is full of choices and this month we will explore prevention and vaccination and our role in society and disease prevention.



# RESOURCES

PROMOTING DISEASE PREVENTION



A film still from the two-part PBS series *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*

39





# RESOURCES

## Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

A national program managed by the CDC and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to monitor the safety of all vaccines licensed in the United States. VAERS is a system for collecting and reviewing reports of adverse events that occur after vaccination.



[www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)



800-232-4636

## Vaccine Safety Datalink Project (VSD)

A collaboration between CDC and eight large Health Management Organizations (HMOs) to continually evaluate vaccine safety and increase knowledge of vaccine adverse events. Medical records of more than 6 million people are monitored for potential adverse events following vaccination, which supports vaccine safety studies and enables timely investigations.

## For Parents of Infants and Toddlers

- Talking with parents about vaccines for infants

### Vaccine Safety:

If you choose not to vaccinate your child, understand the risks and responsibilities

- Understanding MMR vaccine safety
- Understanding how vaccines work
- Vaccine safety for parents

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/patient-ed.html>

## For Parents of Preteens and Teens

- [Print Materials](#)
- [Video & Audio Resources](#)
- [Q&As about HPV vaccine safety](#)

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/patient-ed.html>

## For Pregnant Women

- [Pregnancy and Vaccination pdf icon](#)[2 pages]
- [Immunization and Pregnancy Vaccine Chart pdf icon](#)[1 page]
- [What You Need to Know about Pregnancy and Vaccines pdf icon](#)[1 page]
- [Other Resources](#)

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/patient-ed.html>



**TO FIND MORE INFORMATION  
TO EDUCATE YOUR FAITH  
COMMUNITY BY VISITING:**

**<https://www.cdc.gov/>**

**[www.cdc.gov/training/cecredit/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/training/cecredit/index.html)**

**<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html>**



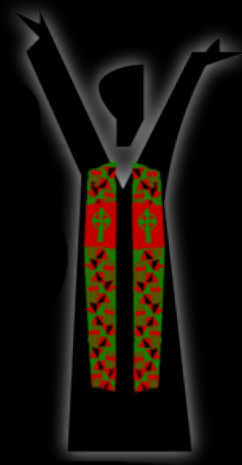
**CENTERS FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND PREVENTION**





# MERCH FOR THE CHURCH

IT'S ON 'TIL LIBERATION



Salvation  
and  
Social Justice  
*Liberating Public Policy Theologically*

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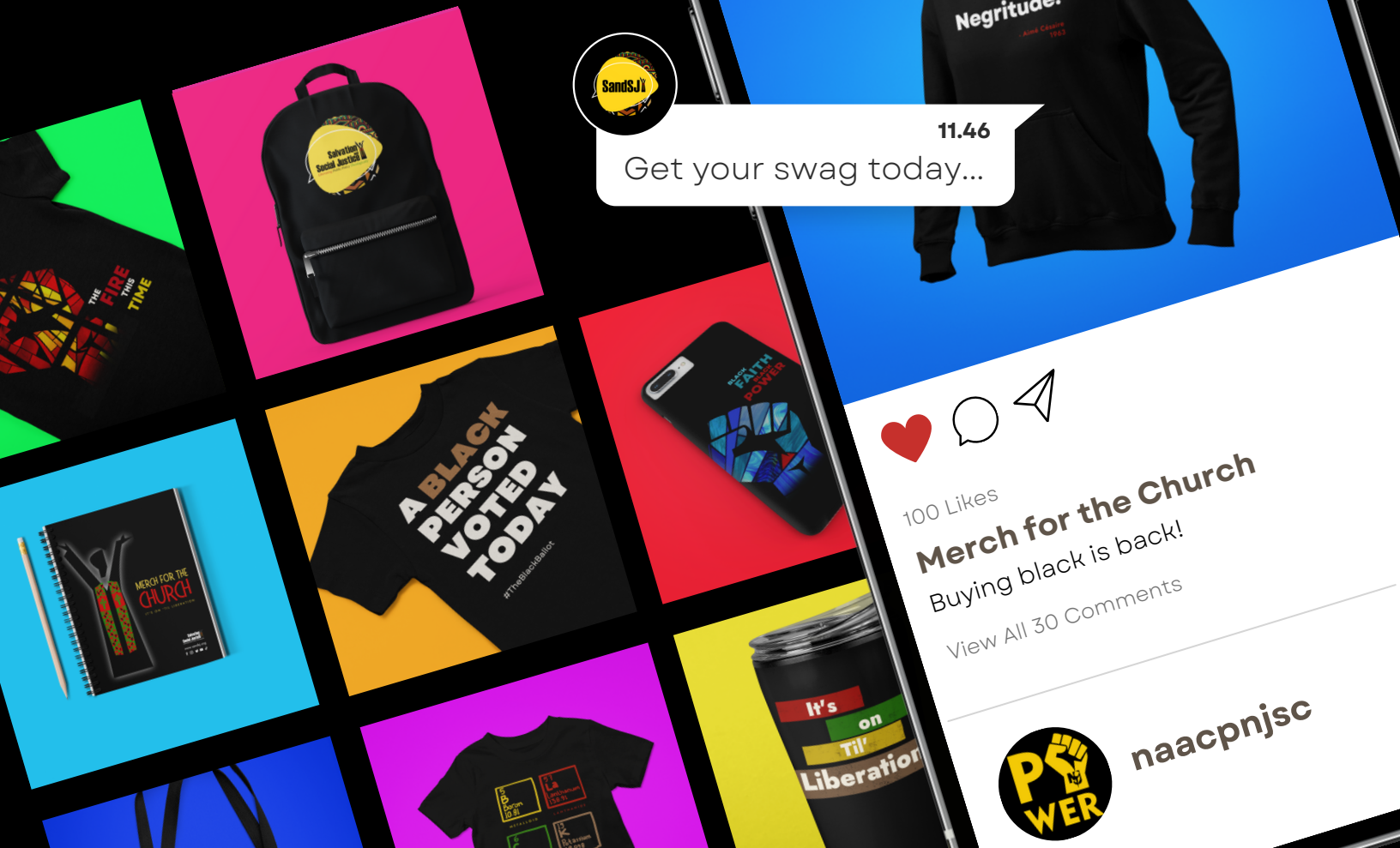
100 Likes

**Merch for the Church**  
Buying black is back!

View All 30 Comments



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# Salvation and Social Justice



*Liberating Public Policy Theologically*