Long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put many people from certain racial and ethnic minority groups, older adults, and people with disabilities at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19, including older adults are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 compared to younger people who are pregnant, or were recently pregnant, you are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19 compared to people who are not pregnant. Pregnancy causes changes in the body that could make it easier to get sick from respiratory viruses like the one that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. Learn more here.

Here are some other preventive measures Saint Paul’s is taking:

- Having speakers set an example by wearing face masks when speaking to the congregation and wiping down the shared microphone between each speaker.
- Serving communion wafers and beverages in metal trays filled with small plastic cups that each congregant can retrieve and open as the tray is passed along the front door. This is the only person touching his/her own plastic cup.
- At the Saint Paul’s Missionary Baptist Church, the congregation is taking COVID-19 protection measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through traditional prevention measures. In addition to providing congregants and visitors with face masks, attendants at the front door take down the contact information of individuals entering the church. Should a congregant test positive for COVID-19, the church’s staff will use the contact information to identify other congregants who may have been in close proximity of the congregant who tested positive and encourage them to get tested.

We encourage houses of worship to develop their own COVID-19 protection plans if they have not already.