



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

God is still speaking,

14 March 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

God is with you. The grace and peace of Jesus—our ancient brother, present friend, and eternal savior—are true. The Holy Spirit gives us faith, wisdom, and strength to meet the challenges of the day, and she is the joy that sees us through all our days.

On behalf of Church Council, Kathy and I will come right to point. Due to our present public health emergency, declared at both the state and federal levels, all in-person church activities—including worship, ministry meetings, Lenten dinners, and congregational events—will be suspended, effectively immediately, until at least April 5 (Palm Sunday).

Our hope in this decision is to keep the most physically vulnerable individuals among us as safe as possible. Additionally, we are seeking to be responsible citizens in our larger society by diminishing the potential for rapid transmission of the coronavirus, which public health officials warn us could prove overwhelming to our health care system.

We do not take this step lightly. Among other things, we grieve the necessity to postpone Camp Sunday, which is a fun celebration in our congregation, an opportunity to “pay grace and goodness forward,” and an event which many people anticipate and work hard to pull off. We won’t abandon our commitment to our children and their families, nor to our Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach camps.

The ministry of the congregation will continue while we experience this disruption. I will work with Spencer and Alanna to provide online Sunday worship content and lesson ideas for parents to use with children. I will provide a daily prayer or song or quote or scripture passage or reading on the church’s Facebook page. We will clean—and develop plans to ensure that we regularly disinfect—surfaces that people frequently touch in our building. We will call our shut-in and elderly members to determine if and how we can assist them. And you may call or text (608-774-0640) or email me at any time with questions or concerns, or to hear a friendly voice.

This pandemic is something that few of us have ever experienced before. We will do our best every day to respond to it faithfully, lovingly, and calmly, knowing that God is present with power and hope for the day. God blesses us, those we love, and all people.

For Church Council,
in God’s service,
with love,

Rev. David W. Frey
Pastor

Kathy Mahoney
Moderator

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