

Friday March 13, 2020

Dear CCA Members and Friends,

In light of continued concerns over the COVID-19 Coronavirus, we have made the difficult decision to SUSPEND our Sunday Worship services and Church School program through the end of March – this includes Sunday, March 15, March 22, and March 29.

This decision was not made lightly, especially when uncertain times such as these compel so many of us to seek comfort and guidance in the presence of God with our church family. Other churches in our area are suspending services and gatherings as well, as are many of our local schools and organizations. On Tuesday, our NH Conference Minister, the Rev. Gordon Rankin, is set to recommend that all NH UCC churches initiate a fast from public worship for the remainder of the month as a service to our communities.

No cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Amherst as of yet, but to best protect the most vulnerable among us and slow the rate of possible infection in the wider area, we've chosen to be proactive and refrain from gathering as a group. This will give us two full weeks of "social distancing" at which point we will reevaluate the situation on March 30th and decide whether more time is needed or if the danger has lessened.

We will also be suspending all in-person gatherings between now and Monday, March 30th. This includes our Choir rehearsals, Confirmation, Middle High and Senior High Youth, Parent's Group, Small Group Ministry, Men's Group, Lenten Supper Series, and New Members Info Session. If you have any Ministry Team meetings planned we recommend that you meet via email, conference call, or via ZOOM.

Pastor Kate and I are working on alternative ways for us to be "church" in a remote way using email, phone calls, our website, and social media. We're making plans to livestream the sermon on Sunday mornings via Facebook Live (watch for a link via email), and will also make it available for viewing on our website. Our Church School coordinator, Marilyn Gibson, is preparing ways to engage our children and parents with our online church school curriculum. If you have any other ideas that might help you feel connected let us know!

If you have any Pastoral Care concerns, or just need to talk, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Pastors or our Congregational Care Team, via email or by calling the church office.

Thankfully we're not in this alone.

We have one another - and we have an amazing God who walks with us at all times.

We are the Church, and we are a family, even if we have to be so remotely for the time being!

Let us hold one another in prayer, and all those adversely affected in this time of uncertainty and need.

Blessings,
Pastor Maureen

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The church office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.