

Dear Friends,

I am writing to let you know that after much prayerful discernment, and in response to the continued spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community and across our globe, our Board of Deacons has decided to suspend Sunday services at Four Corners Community Chapel for the next 3 weeks. In addition, we will suspend all committee/board meetings, as well as other weekly events, including choir rehearsals, Mission Bingo on 3/21, and weekly Youth Group gatherings (with the exception of the 30-Hour Famine which is still scheduled to take place this weekend). This year's Lenten Series will resume sometime this Spring.

Please know that we did not come to this decision easily. Life at 200 Angell Road is a sacred and precious time for all of us. Getting to share the joys and burdens of our lives through prayer, worship, and community is a gift. Not being able to gather as usual will feel like a loss. However, after listening to the recommendations of many healthcare professionals, and participating in deliberations with the *Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ*, we believe it is in the best interest of our congregation, and of our neighbors near and far, to take an active role in helping to stop the spread of disease, to protect the most vulnerable, and to avoid undue strain on our healthcare system and providers. The good news is, we also believe it will not be this way forever. At FCCC, we believe in a God who is our refuge and strength. If the coming of Easter tells us anything, it is that in good time all things will be made new!

In the coming days, you will be receiving information about how you'll be able to access parts of Sunday worship through live streaming or video access. Because we know not everyone is hooked up to the internet, we'll also be working to build worship and community through regular mailings and phone calls. If you know of someone who may not be receiving this communication, please contact me or the church office right away so we can make sure to connect with them.

Our aim is to pay particular attention to those who may feel sick, or who are struggling with anxiety, isolation, and fear. Along with the Deacons, we will continue to provide visitation whenever possible. Our goal, however, will always be to provide care that is both safe and meaningful. If you are in need of pastoral care or visitation for any reason, please contact me directly.

While children and youth programming is temporarily suspended, both Amanda and Wade are available to provide support to the youngest among us. Unless you hear otherwise, the church office will remain open Monday – Friday, 8 – 1 p.m.

I will continue to communicate with you as we work together through this time of uncertainty. As the Psalmist reminds us, "Be patient. Take courage. Wait on the Lord, and believe that we shall see the goodness of God in the land of the living."

I give thanks for you and the hundred ways I see the goodness of God in you –

See you back in church very soon –
David