

Dear UUC Community,

The Board made the difficult and deliberate decision to suspend all in-person programming at UUC and to close the building for a month, except for staff. The decision was based on the rapidly changing situation, recognizing that while there have been no reported cases here in the NRV, the likelihood is that they will be identified soon. We were informed by recommendations from the UUA, CDC, and epidemiologists. UUC member Linsey Marr also joined the meeting virtually and explained her understanding of the current situation through the lens of her many years of research on the spread of disease. In short, we want to slow the spread of the virus among our friends and members, being part of the wider effort to “flatten the curve” so that our healthcare system can successfully care for all those affected. We are especially mindful that the consequences for older people and those with medical conditions are more dire than for the young and healthy.

While we are cancelling in-person programming, we are committed to continuing our mission, especially *creating compassionate community*. During this time of “social distancing,” we will rely more heavily on technology to maintain our connections.

This Sunday, we will take our first baby steps in holding services virtually, using Zoom (using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/510469220>). We know that many people don't know this technology and encourage those who do to reach out to others to walk them through the process on the phone or email. We'll work on sending out more information and tutorials next week. We will get better at gathering virtually and will use this as a time to learn how to grow our circle of concern.

Likewise, all smaller groups and committees are encouraged to continue to meet. While some may choose to meet in person somewhere other than UUC, we recommend that you meet virtually, using whatever platforms you have available and letting us know if you need access to a Zoom account. If you have skills and knowledge that you can share with those who don't, please contact [Rev. Pam](#) or [Lisa](#). We will continue to *inspire spiritual and ethical growth* as we learn together.

Finally, we know that this will be an unsettling and even scary time for many. Please remember that ours is a strong community full of amazing people who want to help each other in whatever way possible. If you are feeling isolated or in need of help, reach out to Rev. Pam. The [Caring Network](#) is also available to provide support in the form of meals and other logistical needs, and the [Lay Pastoral Care Ministry](#) will continue to work to support those in need of a listening presence. This will be a time of transformation, and we will help each other *through courageous love*.

The Board will revisit the decision to close in-person meetings at their next Board meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, please direct your questions and concerns to us at [board@uucnr.org](mailto:board@uucnr.org) and [minister@uucnr.org](mailto:minister@uucnr.org).

In faith, hope, and love,

Rev. Pam Philips

Steve Keighton, Board President