

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

145 S. Prairie Street
Whitewater WI 53190
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March 13, 2020

Dear Faithful Friends of FUMC:

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:31, 38-39

As the situation with the spread of COVID-19 escalates, faithful decisions are needing to be made on almost an hourly basis. Yesterday, those best-practice decisions were to modify our worship practices and encourage good hand washing and no handshaking or hugging.

Today is a different story. It is clear to me that the next best and faithful decision to keep the people of God safe is to **cancel** our face-to-face worship services on Sunday, March 15.

Our guiding principle is doing all we can to ensure the well-being of those most susceptible to health risks. If someone were found to have the coronavirus after the fact, everyone in attendance would be mandated to quarantine.

WE ARE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS AND OTHER TRUSTED RESOURCES TO MAKE THE NEXT BEST DECISIONS.

You can still worship this coming Sunday in this way:

- At 10am, I will be going live on Facebook. We'll have music, scripture, prayers, and a message. Though it will be an abbreviated service, it will allow continuity for our Lenten journey.
- You will be able to find an audio-recording of the worship service on the FUMC website after the service is over.

At this time, until we work out other options, please MAIL your offering to the church office. Keeping up with your financial stewardship and other ways of giving make a difference. (This is also a good time to consider becoming an electronic giver if you are not already.)

If, for some reason, we are not worshipping together in community for the next few Sundays, we will be looking for other opportunities for FUMC to worship. We will not stop being the church. We'll just find new ways!

There are many ways we can be modeling Christ and be the body of Christ for others during this uncertain time. Using the telephone or computer to stay in touch with family, neighbors and especially our senior population that might be more isolated can be a real gift. Please check in

on one another and offer help where you can. Also, in these days of fear and panic, hoarding supplies only causes more anxiety. If you have extra, please share and help others.

Please share this message with friends whom you believe may not receive the message electronically.

Cancellations for the week of March 15-20:

Worship

Messy Church

Sunday School

WeCare

Prime Time

University Free Lunch

Breakfast Club

Wed Morn Bible Study

Choir Rehearsal

Confirmation

Middle School Youth Group

Promise Point

Team Jesus Drumming

Lenten Lunch

Let us move forward in faith. Please offer many prayers for our world, our nation, the Church of Jesus Christ, and one another.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Susan Bresser

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