

Dear United Church Congregation,

It seems like much more time has passed since I last emailed you because of all the news, emergency declarations, and cancellations concerning the Coronavirus crisis. As you know, major decisions are being made daily, if not hourly, about how best to prevent the continued spread of this virus. Along with what we decided at our Executive Council meeting last Sunday (emailed to you earlier this week), here is the latest for The United Church:

-We will have worship services at 8 and 9:30am this Sunday. Along with the other ways we will avoid physical contact with one other, we will not have Coffee Fellowship after the 9:30am worship service. Sunday School classes will meet at 11am. Although places of worship are exempt from the State Health Secretary's public gathering ban, we will continue to assess whether to hold services or not on a weekly basis. Should the decision to cancel worship be decided or mandated in future weeks, we are working to offer a worship service to be streamed online, posted on our website, and sent to PAC 8. Currently, the sermon is posted and PAC 8 airs the service each week (Sunday at 7pm, Tuesday at 12noon).

-Leaders of the Mexico Mission Trip met this week and made the difficult decision to "postpone" this year's trip. They are exploring the possibility of a trip this summer. There is more information about this, including how the families will be helped by us and local volunteers through Amor ministries, that the Mexico Mission Trip leaders will share in the near future.

-The Ecumenical Thursday Lenten program has been cancelled for the remaining weeks of Lent. Thank you to those who provided soup and bread at last night's gathering... and thank you to our Combined Choirs for singing during the worship service!

I made the decision to go to Dallas (not by plane or boat) to check on my mother and sister, and to take a few scheduled days off. I will be back next Friday (or earlier if needed) and will be checking email and talking with staff and congregational leaders daily. As always, you are in good hands with all of our staff members. I thank each of them for their excellent work, guidance and dedication, especially during this time! Please call or email the church office (662-2971) or the Pastors if you need anything. Our cell numbers are listed in the photo directory and on pg. 2 of each edition of the Chimes.

More decisions and communication will happen in the days and weeks ahead as we navigate through this unprecedented time in our lives. Thank you for your attentiveness and support!

This Sunday's services will be at 8 and 9:30am
Scripture Reading: John 4:5-30, 39-42
Sermon: "From the Wilderness of Sin" Kara Windler
Sunday morning classes begin at 11am.

In our prayers...

Los Alamos health professionals and volunteers...
Family, friends, neighbors, each other, and ourselves.
Be well and stay well.

Grace and peace,
David