

Monday, March 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

This is my second update to our congregational response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In keeping with tighter restrictions on public gatherings issued today by state and national authorities we are suspending public worship services and church gatherings until further notice. This includes our Wednesday evening prayer service and Sunday morning worship, as well as Bible studies and other meetings.

At this time we intend to live stream both the Wednesday evening prayer service and Sunday morning worship through our Facebook group, Faith Families. We are also looking into other options for remote participation for members who do not use Facebook, and I will send updates as I know more. There is currently a small team of volunteers who use their phones to live stream our worship, If you have a phone with a data plan and a Facebook account and are able to help, please let me know. Committees and other groups that meet regularly are encouraged to explore alternatives to in-person meetings, including conference calls and email. Joe Dorr has offered to help with any technology questions you may have. Our volunteer cleaning and sanitizing team is no longer necessary. Thank you to everyone who helped out!

This crisis has only increased my appreciation of Jesus' church and the many gifts you share. I am moved by your dedication and faith. Although it is difficult to temporarily not see each other face-to-face, our relationship and the love that connects us is as strong as ever. I encourage you to continue reaching out to your neighbors and supporting the work of ministry. I will continue sharing opportunities to participate in this work even as we look forward to the time when we can gather again. In faith we hold to the promise that *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

*Pastor John*