

March 13, 2020

Dear members and friends of DuPage UU Church,

Coronavirus is everywhere in the news right now. We have received guidance from the CDC, state agencies and our denomination, UUA, recommending that we cancel large gatherings for a month. Recognizing a need to help keep our community and our families healthy, it has been determined that DuPage UU Church will minimize all of our group activities. We are closing the church to large gathering for the next four weeks. *The next regularly scheduled Sunday service will be Easter, April 12th.*

Sunday Services and Forums

Our intention is to have services and forums at their regular times, but will encourage people to view these online, rather than in-person.

Sunday Services - A link to our streaming real-time services, and recordings of old services, will be prominently placed on the church website's front page. We will have a "skeleton crew" at church - the staff, sound crew, some musicians - but we encourage members to stay home, if possible.

Forums - We are inviting leaders of Forums, including Science Sundays, to take their sessions online, as well. This will mean presenting in the Sanctuary, rather than the Learning Center, since we have the necessary equipment there. We are still working out details.

Choir - The choir, as a whole, is suspending large gatherings, as well. We've invited a handful of choristers to help us with our online Sunday services. Thank you, to all those who are helping with that! Meanwhile, current performances will be rescheduled for the future, and rehearsals are currently suspended.

Religious Education and Childcare

Classes are cancelled. Our Director of Religious Education Steve Cooper, and others will put together lessons and activities that can be viewed by our kids online. More details to come.

Childcare is also cancelled, at least until Easter, unless something changes.

Events, small groups, book studies, classes and workshops, etc.

The Prairie View Art Show, scheduled for April 3-4, has been canceled.

It is recommended that church groups either meet online or postpone your meetings. Classes and workshops will be rescheduled for the future. This includes the New Member *Pathways* class, *A Chosen Faith*, Worship Associate training, Creation Spirituality, etc.

Our recommendation includes groups that meet in someone's home. We have no control of what anyone does in their homes, of course, but for the health and safety of everyone we recommend limiting large gatherings for the foreseeable future.

Outside groups who meet in our building (Youth Outlook, AA support groups, and others) will be encouraged to limit large gatherings, as well.

Those who are hosting Auction parties in the next month should consider postponing.

Committees, Task Forces, Board

If it is necessary to meet, it is recommended to use our church Zoom account for meetings. Steve Cooper (dre@dupageuuchurch.org) is available to help you set-up a Zoom meeting, if you don't know how.

Use your judgement about meeting in person - if the group is fewer than 10 people and no one is symptomatic, nor been in the vicinity of some who is. However, meeting virtually for the time being may just be the wiser course.

Stewardship - the Stewardship Committee has been planning alternative forms of communication, rather than Cottage Meetings, going forward. The Celebration Sunday service that was planned for March 22 will now be postponed until April 26.

Statement of Conscience process - the Green Sanctuary group has been working hard to help us approve a statement about climate change, which included voting during coffee hour. The Green Sanctuary group has been asked to develop an alternate plan for voting, or postpone the process until we return to normal operations.

Church Staff

We will work from home much of the time. The church phone number will be forwarded to Sheri. Other staff can still be reached by calling our cell numbers, or by email.

Other Ways of Staying Connected

We will continue to communicate via email, Facebook, our website and newsletters. Please remember that you can reach out to the community, if you are in need, via the DUUC Joys and Concerns page on Facebook. Also, if you need someone to talk to, our

Pastoral Ministry Associates are available through that FB page, or by emailing pmagroup@dupageuuchurch.org.

If someone is or becomes homebound, we will have a meal-train coordinated by Sarah Ruban - access this on the FB Joys and Concerns page or send an email to TLC@dupageuuchurch.org for more information.

In case of emergency, please call Rev. Mike. If you or someone you know in our community exhibits symptoms, do not wait. Go to the hospital. If you or anyone in our community is hospitalized, please inform our Pastoral Ministry Associates (which also goes to Rev. Mike) by emailing pmagroup@dupageuuchurch.org.

We have not taken this lightly. We convened an Emergency Operations Planning Team - Steve Cooper, Joan Doyle, Sarah Ruban, Karen Seymour-Ells, and Rev. Mike Walker - to review guidance coming from state and federal health agencies, local school districts, and the UUA. We then developed a set of recommendations for DuPage UU Church, which were then submitted to our Board of Trustees to approve at an emergency board meeting today, which they have done.

Please stay healthy and reach out by phone if you are in need.

Blessings to you all in a difficult time,

Rev. Mike Walker

On behalf of the DuPage UU Church Board and Staff