

March 13, 2020

Beloved Friends,

The rapidly changing dynamics of the novel Coronavirus pandemic have caused us to reconsider our response to the situation. One of the central teachings of our tradition asserts the “inherent worth and dignity of every person” or as we often say, “there are no other people’s children.” The Unity Church Executive Team, in close consultation with many colleagues and congregations, has determined that we have a moral obligation to close our building and move our ministry online.

Our building will close at noon on Saturday, March 14, 2020, and remain closed through April 4, 2020. We will re-evaluate as we have more information.

Our decision is grounded in consideration of those most vulnerable to infection, including elders, and those with compromised immune systems, and in our understanding of what global citizenship requires of us.

While the building is closed, the Unity Church community will continue to meet online. This is not something with which we have vast experience, but staff and volunteers are already hard at work developing new ways of gathering, teaching, connecting, and continuing to live into our mission of helping all of us to live lives of integrity, service, and joy.

We are making arrangements for our professional staff to do as much of their work as possible remotely. No one on staff will be laid-off or furloughed during this time. Though driven by necessity, the changes underway will benefit the church for years to come.

Important Details

- **Sunday Worship** will be online. Janne, Rob, Lisa, KP, and Ahmed will continue our series on resilience. We are working out the technology right now and information for Sunday, March 15, will be emailed on Saturday.
- **Pastoral Care** and spiritual support will be available by [email](#), [online](#), and by phone at 651-228-1456. The ministers and the pastoral care team are developing new ways to help us all to stay in touch.
- **Lifespan Religious Education** will also be online and will include a taste of Wellspring Wednesday, Chalice Circles, Community Outreach Team meetings, bedtime stories, and materials for at-home family learning.
- **Communication** will come in the form of email, phone, and social media. The homepage of Unity’s website will contain the most current information as well as contact information as questions arise. <https://www.unityunitarian.org>

Allow us to close with these words from our dear colleague Victoria Safford:

*For now, may all of you stay safe.
May you attend faithfully to all the small
and steady ways you've found to sooth your anxious heart.
Attend to these with care, the same care you take to drink water,
the care you take to stay well.
May those you love be held and protected, children and elders, those near and far.
May we all find ways to center those in our midst who are now the most vulnerable:
neighbors whose names we may not even know,
communities at the margins, who are now at the center of risk.
May we make space to wonder, how can I help?
and find ways to answer with glad and grateful hearts,
for this question holds healing, for us and for all.
Friends, lets draw the circle wide, and keep the circle whole.*

With deepest gratitude for the ministry we share,
The Unity Church Executive Team
Janne and Rob Eller-Isaacs, Lisa Friedman, KP Hong, Barbara Hubbard