



Weston United Methodist Church

Covid 19 Virus Response

www.westonunitedmethodist.org

Greetings, brothers and sisters of the Weston United Methodist Church family.

In this time of high anxiety, with the COVID-19 crisis resulting in Massachusetts in a declared state of emergency and our town offices and schools closing (not to mention the cancellation of so many sporting events, etc.), **we have decided that the Weston United Methodist Church will cancel all gatherings for at least the next two weeks.**

Meetings have been set up to be held via Zoom, meaning that members can connect to meetings online from home. The Healing Service scheduled for this Sunday, the 15th, will be cancelled. Cantata practice will be postponed, and the Easter Cantata will be held at a later date. At our regular worship time **on Sundays, 10:30 AM, Pastor Pat and her husband Bob will be at the sanctuary and will electronically share the worship service with you**, to the extent possible. Details will be sent via email this Saturday, March 14th, as to how you can get connected. In any case, the sermon will be available via YouTube as usual later in the day on Sunday.

Pastor Pat will be available via her cell phone (207-951-0529) beginning on Saturday, and, at least until further notice, the church office will continue to be open Tuesday and Thursday 2-5:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday 8-11:30 AM.

To quote from our neighboring Congregational Church of Weston, *"In essence we are declaring "snow days" without the snow. Even if this community participation in "social distancing" keeps the virus from spreading deeper and further at this time, community health experts are predicting that until there is a vaccine we will be living with corona-virus just as we live with the common cold and the flu. Best practices of staying home if ill, washing hands often, coughing into one's sleeve, appropriate social distancing, etc.,"* are important for everyone.

We will keep monitoring the situation, and will do our best to keep you informed.

One of the important parts of our gathering as a community of faith is the connection that we have to one another. I want to make a strong recommendation to all of us to **be in contact with one another via phone, Zoom, FaceTime, text messaging or email during this time when physical contact is limited.** Avoid becoming isolated, and think of those who are most likely to experience loneliness and reach out. In the coming week, we will try to organize a calling system, and in the meantime, make it your personal intention to call at least one person whom you would ordinarily talk to on Sunday morning just to encourage each other, and call at least one person whom you miss seeing on Sundays to check in and be sure that they are staying well.

God bless you all.

Pastor Pat and the leadership of the Weston UMC

PS: Please be aware that church expenses continue even if we are not able to gather on Sunday mornings. If it is at all possible for us to continue to make our usual contributions that would be most appreciated by the Finance Committee. Online contributions can be made on the website,