

Dear Friends:

After a great deal of prayerful consideration and discussion, we are cancelling worship services as well as all church meetings and fellowship activities through at least the end of March. While this has been a difficult decision, we believe it represents a responsible response to this unprecedented public health crisis.

It has become increasingly clear that the only way to flatten the transmission curve for COVID-19 is to limit face to face interaction with others as best we can. The information we have at this time is that people are infectious two days before symptoms and fourteen days after symptoms. **In other words, you can be infectious while you are feeling fine, and before you experience any symptoms at all!**

What does this mean for our church community?

PASTORAL CARE: Pastoral support will be provided as appropriate, and please do not hesitate to reach out to Jane for support. Visits to hospitals and nursing facilities will be limited and will follow guidelines established by healthcare personnel. To reach Jane, please call 860-918-5415 or send an email to jhawken@sbcglobal.net.

WORSHIP: No worship services will be held on March 15, 22 or 29. At the time of this writing, we anticipate that we will gather for worship on Palm Sunday, April 5.

BELFRY CHIMES: There will be no April Belfry Chimes.

CHURCH OFFICE: The church office will be closed during this time.

CHURCH COUNCIL: The church council meeting for March 31 will be tentatively scheduled for April 7 at 6:00. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via email.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES: All in-person board and committee meetings will be cancelled or postponed until April 1 or later.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS: The remaining two soup suppers and speakers will be rescheduled.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: This special event is being rescheduled for a later date.

Lent is a time for introspection, and we invite you to spend some personal time in prayer and reflection. We hope to gather again for worship on Palm Sunday. In the meantime, we will communicate regularly via e-mail and social media.

As we move into the coming weeks, it is fitting to recall the promise of our faith, from Romans 8, which says: *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Yours in Christian faith,

Jeannette Hodge, President
Rev. Jane Hawken, Minister