

Responding to Coronavirus at CUUC

Friends,

Over these last weeks and particularly in the last few days, CUUC's leadership has been alert to the ever-changing landscape, making adjustments and plans to keep our church and the larger community both safe and connected. While these actions may seem "alarmist," the Board of Trustees believes CUUC must do its part to minimize the number of interactions that cause the opportunity for illness to spread. If no one from CUUC gets sick and COVID-19 goes away, you may wonder what all the fuss was about. But public health experts remind us that if this fizzles out because of our efforts, we've done it right. Here are some of the immediate measures we will be taking.

CUUC's Plans for Worship, Programs, and Services

As approved by the Board of Trustees, these are the steps being taken at this time.

Worship: Our building will be closed beginning Sunday, March 15. This week's service will be pre-recorded and posted on the church website at 10:30 am. (Assuming all our technology cooperates; your patience may be much appreciated.)

Meetings and Interest Groups: Cancel or postpone all meetings and gatherings you can. If that's not possible, conduct business via email or choose to meet online or via phone. We're lucky to live in a time of technology that will allow many of us to stay connected even while separated; let's use it and help others use it.

Religious Education: All RE is cancelled for now; Pastor Kris and the RE team will be looking into how we can provide resources for families wanting to experience worship together via screen.

Staff: The church office will be closed, but Pastor Kris and much of our leadership will be available via phone and email. Check out the website for [contact information](#), or contact Pastor Kris Cervantes via [mail](#) or phone (texts or calls to 254-315-1501 during business hours only, please, unless it's an emergency).

Renters: Sai Baba has cancelled all services for the duration; we're grateful for their concern and care of our shared space and community.

Pastoral Care Connections

Please let us know if you have decided to or are ordered to self-quarantine, and whether you might need any food or other supplies while staying home. Also let us know if you are ill, have tested positive, and/or have been hospitalized. You may reach out to the [Board](#) or to [Pastor Kris Cervantes](#). All information will be kept confidential, but even the knowledge of which services or events may have been attended by carriers of the virus is invaluable in helping others in the community.

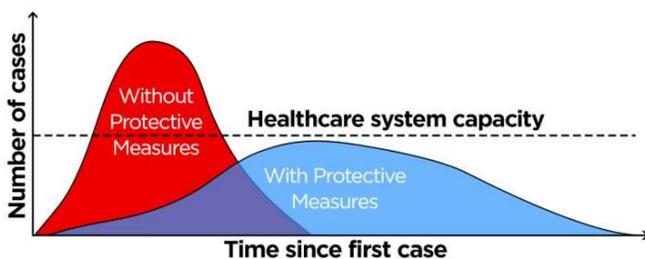
Because some may feel isolated, we would appreciate having more helpers for pastoral care who can deliver supplies, make phone calls, assist with technology, and help those who may not be leaving their homes at this time. If you would like to help, please contact [June Bruns](#).

We are also developing new ways to connect, including online story times, virtual coffee hours, shared meditation/prayer times, and more. We will send along a schedule of these great ways to connect each week.

As always, please let us know how we may be of assistance, and what questions you may have.

Our Role in Preventing Further Spread of COVID-19

We know that pandemics rely on close social contact, and we can “flatten the curve” when we reduce our social interactions.



This is important, because COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that adversely affects people living with compromised immune systems, older members (over 60) whose immune systems are generally more vulnerable than younger members, and people living with chronic health conditions, especially lung conditions. There may also be underlying conditions that have yet to be identified. We also know that younger folks may not get sick/as sick, but are also carriers, so social interactions can compromise otherwise healthy

people. This means that we should all consider practicing “social distancing” to prevent the spread.

Let’s be clear: we trust you as adults to take care of yourself, to know when you’re sick or need to self-quarantine. The reason this is spreading so quickly is that folks don’t necessarily know if they have been exposed and are often out in public/in close social interactions after they have been infected. We don’t know how many people actually are infected – because of how this spreads, incubation periods, and lack of testing, the number is likely to be much higher than is officially being reported. Social distancing is not about mistrusting one another. It’s about a community mindset, informed by science. It’s about making sure we are taking care of all of us.

This is a beloved community, and we are all in this together. Let’s take care of one another with kindness, love, and comfort.

Yours in faith,
Pastor Kris Cervantes and the CUUC Board of Trustees