

Dear AVC friends,

As a spiritual community at this unprecedented time of concern about the Coronavirus, we are called to care for one another with wisdom and kindness. Yesterday, Kathleen Adams and I met with members of my Advisory Team (Dr. Rob Russell, Lindsay Crouse, Sandy Lawrence) to discuss how to best to do this.

Recognizing that there is still much we do not know about the virus and that there is a significant lack of testing available, we have made a unanimous decision to shift our gathering for worship online until further notice.

Beginning this Sunday at 10 a.m., we will hold a modified worship service using Zoom technology. As possible, the Sunday service will include music. For those of you not familiar with Zoom, I will send clear and easy instructions in a separate email later today. Sermons will continue to be available on our website.

This is a time that calls us to find other new ways to stay connected. Here are some ideas:

* Stay in touch with your friends and reach out to the vulnerable among us by phone, text, Facebook, or Zoom. Consider asking someone to be your spiritual companion through this time - to pray for each other and check in daily.

* Be in touch with me. As your new pastor, it is a priority for me to get to know you and support you through this challenging time. The best way to set a time to meet (via phone, Zoom, or in person) is for you to email capeannrevsue@gmail.com or phone/text me at 978-325-2573. I will also be sending out daily messages for spiritual support beginning today.

The Advisory Team will continue to meet weekly and as needed to discern a response to this public health crisis. If you have ideas about how we as a church community can be of support to one another and to the wider community, please let any of us know. When we began our Lenten journey, we could never have imagined what a wilderness experience it would become for all of us.

As followers of Jesus, this is a time to turn to our faith for strength; to offer our prayers for the sick and the scared, for caregivers, medical professionals, scientists, and leaders; and to creatively reach out to one another in love.

I will be in touch later today with more information about connecting this Sunday via Zoom. Take to heart this prayer from St. Patrick:

May the Strength of God guide us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Angels of God guard us.
- Against the snares of the evil one.

May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!

May Thy Grace, Lord, Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and forevermore. Amen.

In the love of Christ,
Rev. Sue

(Advisory Team - Rob Russell, Sandy Lawrence, Lindsay Crouse,
ElizaBeth Emery, Nancy Guselli)