

## COVID 19 Message from Rev. María - March 12, 2020

*Dear friends:*

*This is a hard, even surreal time, isn't it? Our lives are being disrupted in ways we couldn't even imagine two days ago, and we can't yet see that bright light at the end of the tunnel. Let's take this COVID threat seriously and responsibly but without panic. We will get through this together and we will be better when it's all over.*

*Given how quickly the coronavirus travels into our communities, your Board of Trustees and I have decided to **suspend in-person gatherings at UUFHC starting now and until April 5<sup>th</sup>**. We will revisit our decision on that date and determine what to do next. Our Safety Team is working closely with UUFHC leadership to keep us abreast of the latest and best science. And we are working closely with our sibling congregations and the UUA. Current recommendations ask us to cease brick and mortar operations immediately and move to making church community online. We care deeply about your safety and the safety of our wider community and we ask you to honor our decision to temporarily close the building at this time.*

*We believe that 'social distancing' is the single most effective strategy to slow the spread of the virus, and we also know that all of us need human connection and mutual support now more than ever. Please reach out to me if you need connection, if you have questions or suggestions or simply want to talk. [minister@uufhc.net](mailto:minister@uufhc.net). Our UUFHC Compassion Team is busy making plans to respond to individual needs in our community as we move forward.*

*I will lead worship on Sunday morning at our usual time of 10:30 am via the Zoom online platform. You will receive an invitation to join the Zoom meeting via email once we have everything set up. In the meantime, you may want to*

*download Zoom (it is free) and acquaint yourself with how the platform works. You can access Zoom from your computer or smartphone. Unlike Facebook or other platforms, it does not require us to disclose personal details. I am excited about the opportunity to host a variety of our classes and small group meetings using this platform as well. It is the next best thing to being together in person. For this week, we are canceling all Faith Formation classes, including OWL. The UUA folks who lead our OWL efforts strongly encourage us not to attempt to teach OWL classes online. Your Faith Formation Team is working to create excellent content starting on March 22d, and to explore other avenues for completing our OWL curricula.*

*We urge you to keep checking our uufhc.net website for updated information. We will do our very best to provide the very latest information as we have it. Thank you for your patience!*

*Dear ones, this threat is moving extremely quickly, and while there is much we do not yet know, we have already learned a great deal. Experts warn us that it is more contagious than the flu and carries potentially more dangerous consequences for those who become very ill.*

*Remember...love wins. If love hasn't won, it isn't over.*

*With much love to each and every one of you,*

*Rev. María*



*Resources for more information:*

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>
2. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/03/coronavirus-cancel-everything/607675/>

3. <https://www.vox.com/2020/3/10/21171481/coronavirus-us-cases-quarantine-cancellation>
4. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Also, a new email group, [coronavirus@uufhc.net](mailto:coronavirus@uufhc.net) has been set up to address questions/concerns and share information with regard to the coronavirus and the suspension of all in-person gatherings at UUFHC. In order to post and/or to receive email from this group, please send a request to [webmaster@uufhc.net](mailto:webmaster@uufhc.net) and you will be added. Once you are a subscriber you can send messages to [coronavirus@uufhc.net](mailto:coronavirus@uufhc.net).