



928.774.7383 | FlagstaffFederatedChurch.org

400 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

PRESBYTERIAN | COMMUNITY | METHODIST

March 17, 2020

Friends of Federated,

On Monday evening, the Board of Trustees made the difficult decision to postpone public worship in the sanctuary. We will not gather at the church this coming Sunday, March 22, and hope to resume regular worship services by May 10, Mother's Day. In addition to Sunday worship services, we are canceling all mid-week meetings and activities, including the Lenten Soup Suppers.

We did not make this decision lightly but out of caution and concern for the health and well-being of the Federated family, under the authoritative direction of the Center for Disease Control. News of this pandemic is changing daily, if not hourly, and so we will continue to communicate with you in the coming weeks. During these days of recommended social distancing, we recognize that you need more than just information; you need to feel care and connection, as well as set aside space to pray, reflect, and worship. While we will be unable to worship together in the sanctuary, a shorter worship service including prayers, scripture readings, and a sermon will be uploaded to our church website, which may be directly accessed at <https://www.flagstafffederatedchurch.org/sermons>.

Some members of our congregation have expressed concern that this period without Sunday worship will lead to loss of connection with one another and the church. The Board shares your concerns, and while this action is the most prudent for the health and safety of our older members, we wish to strengthen our relationships while reducing the chance of spreading disease. As a way to address these concerns, we urge phone calls to check in on friends and speak with those you would normally speak with on a Sunday morning, as well as a few calls to those you haven't seen for a while. We hope your Christian sense of duty will bring you to creatively reach out in service to others as we looking for ways this struggle may strengthen our community.

While our congregation will not gather together on Sunday mornings, please note that the Church is still operating and will have some continuing expenses. If it is possible, and if your situation allows, your maintenance of your pledge would greatly be appreciated and put to use during this difficult and unforeseen time.

On the very night Jesus was betrayed, denied, and arrested, our Lord gathered with those whom he loved in the upper room, and he said to them, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

May this peace of Christ find and be with us all through this struggle,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan T. Scanlon
Pastor, Flagstaff Federated Community Church