



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUBURN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST REV. DANIEL SPACEK
Pastor

March 13, 2020

"I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow can separate us from God's love."
~ Romans 8:38-39

By now, we are all well aware of the growing concerns related to the spread of COVID-19 in our community and our world, and the fluid nature of how to best respond. Today I write to you with a message of care and, I hope, clarity, as to public gatherings at FCC Auburn.

First and foremost, I pray that we all breathe deeply in these turbulent days, trusting that the God who meets us in all things will hold us through this. As Paul says so beautifully, nothing – no virus, no fear, no uncertainty – can separate us from the love of God. May we hold fast to that spirit of love as we navigate the days ahead.

After meeting with Auburn area pastors and a local physician well-versed on the subject, conversations with church staff and officers, and in accordance with current guidelines from CA public health officials, **we have made the decision to suspend all public gatherings at First Congregational Church of Auburn, UCC, effective immediately.** This includes all church programs - Sunday morning worship, Sunday school and youth groups, OWL, choirs, and adult educational classes.

Uncommon times call for uncommon response. And so, while we will not be meeting in person for the time being, we will offer an online worship video each week, consisting of scripture, a message, and prayer. You will find it on the opening page of our church website, starting this Sunday, March 15. However long this goes, we will continually look for other creative means to remain in faithful connection and fellowship.

In the coming days and weeks, we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated via the website, social media platforms, and phone/text as to when we will gather again in the customary ways. In the meantime, the church office will remain open and I will be available during my normal hours.

My primary message to you right now is to remain calm, practice the simple steps for hygiene that we all know (*wash those hands*), and hold fast to the strength and grace of God to guide us. May we all receive the wisdom to discern appropriate actions, and the courage to perform them.

Rev. Dan