



United Methodist Church of
ATASCADERO

March 16, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The recent weeks have brought many changes to how we do things in the church due to the pandemic of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). After consulting with staff and educating ourselves about the way to prevent the outbreak from being even worse, I have decided to cancel all church events at Atascadero UMC until the end of March. I do not reach this decision lightly and without much prayer, but in order for us to help our community to remain healthy. Social distancing is one of those actions we can take that will make a difference. At this time, the office will remain open, so if you have prayer concerns, want to check in, want to send in your offering, we will continue to be available to communicate with you. I am in the higher risk population and so I will be working from home for the most part, I plan to go in and video some segments from the sanctuary to provide people with some devotional and Bible study resources. You will be able to access these on-line at our you tube channel or on Facebook live.

I will be consulting with our Children's Ministry staff and volunteers on how we may continue to support our families and we will post ideas for you to do if you are at home. More information will be sent out on line and through further mailings.

A suggestion you might consider is to create a worship space in your home. This could be as simple as a candle you light as you pray and read Scripture using the Upper Room or another devotional resource. Use this time as Sabbath time, to reflect deeply and connect strongly to the Spirit.

Also, when the weather allows, get outside and take a walk, or hike. Do continue to connect with folks in whatever ways you can.

We will be creating a phone tree to connect with you and you can always call us at the office if any needs arise.

From our Child Development teacher: If you are in a family with small children, one way you can comfort them is to massage their shoulders, or another form of therapeutic touch. We are supposed to stay 6 feet apart, so families may find that they need to focus on physical touch more intentionally.

The news changes daily and so I hope you will listen for further updates from those agencies that are managing this crisis.

I will continue to pray for you and for our country, for the world. We are all brought together during this trying time because we are very strong together.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve