



## Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden

Rev. Tony Lorenzen, Minister  
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Dear Holy Ones,

We have been monitoring the continuing development of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, especially the developing situation in Connecticut. Federal response to this threat has been inadequate, testing is not at the level it could be, and the situation will likely get worse before things improve. The rate of known infection in neighboring Massachusetts and New York is increasing rapidly. We, as Unitarian Universalists, are called to do our part to contribute to public well being and public health. The best things we can do to mitigate the severity of the spread of the disease are to practice good hygiene, especially washing hands well, and keeping our distance from others, including avoiding large public gatherings. The virus can take up to 14 days to show symptoms and because of this people may be spreading the virus for weeks unaware that they have it. Social distancing is currently our best public defense against the spread of the virus. The highest risk groups are people over 60 and anyone with underlying health or respiratory issues. Many of our members and our staff, including Steve Nahas and Rev. Tony fall into these categories.

Therefore, we have decided to suspend all congregational in-person gatherings for at least the next few weeks. This means no worship services, team or committee meetings or events. We are constructing a plan so that we stay connected as a faith community during this time of congregational social distancing. Our current plan for combating social isolation and ministering to each other through this time includes:

- An online worship service every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. via Facebook or YouTube.
- Weekly gatherings for reflection and sharing via Zoom, one daytime and one evening option.
- Phone calls to members from The Pastoral Care Team.
- A weekly online bring your own lunch conversation with Rev. Tony.
- We are also looking into seeing if we can help facilitate some cooperative child care among parents whose jobs require them to be present.
- Committees and Teams can continue to meet via Zoom video conference or conference call.

More details about all of this will follow in the next day or two. Information, updates and announcements about meetings and online worship will be posted to our Facebook page and Website. We recommend becoming familiar with the app “Zoom” because it gives us some wonderful possibilities. If you have a computer, tablet, or smartphone with a microphone/camera, you can use Zoom. And it really, truly is easy, even if you feel you are not technologically savvy. If you need help with this, let us know.

Additionally, Rev. Tony and the Pastoral Care Team are standing by. If you would like to meet with them via Zoom or a good old-fashioned telephone call, please send an email to [revtonyuu@gmail.com](mailto:revtonyuu@gmail.com) or [muffy295@aol.com](mailto:muffy295@aol.com). We ask for your patience and good humor as we transition to doing church in a different way for a while.

With much love and a lot of blessings,

Rev. Tony and the Board

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