

An important message from Pastor Jane regarding COVID-19 and worship

Dear Friends in Faith,

As you probably well know, the introduction of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) into California and now the Coachella Valley has meant the shuttering of public gatherings of all sorts. Because of the highly contagious nature of the illness, its tricky symptoms, the need to maintain 6-foot distance from others to stay safe (and the impossibility to do so in our especially-cozy sanctuary), and COVID-19's particular danger to older and health-compromised folks, **all activity at UMCPS is canceled for the rest of the month.**

This decision is one I made after prayerful consultation with our staff as well as having received guidelines from Governor Newsom and Cal-Pac Bishop Grant Hagiya.

The most significant temporary change will be in the way we worship together for the next three Sundays. **Starting this Sunday, March 15, at 10 am, you'll be able to attend our "virtual" worship service via Facebook Live.** Jeremy Wells, Wayne Hinton, our fabulous soloist John Velasquez, and I will be coming to you live from the sanctuary, leading a worship service filled with music, God's Word, a sermon, plenty of prayer, and, of course, fun touches...and you can watch it and be a part of it all via your computer. (You'll even be able to let us know during community prayer time your prayer concerns.) We are working hard to create an experience that will be as meaningful and warm as possible.

All you need to do is go to our [Facebook page](#) at 10 am this Sunday, or go to our [webpage](#) and there you'll find a link that will send you to the service. If you can't make it, you can watch the recorded version later via Facebook or our website.

In addition, all meetings, special events and other congregational gatherings at the church will be shuttered until April 1. Where needed we will use Zoom to gather via computer. We will also be bringing you video devotionals throughout the week and find other ways to stay connected during this extraordinary time.

I am happy to say our Just Pancakes and Desert Diner programs will continue;

in the Desert means will continue in our Fellowship Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays as well.

I know this is difficult news to hear; it is difficult for me to share. We so love being together! I am grateful these measures will be in place for but a short time, and I hope the opportunities to be creative in our connecting to God and one another for the next few weeks will definitely feel like lemonade made from the lemons we've been handed.

Please, as always, feel free to [email me](#) with whatever thoughts, concerns, and suggestions you have. While group gatherings right now are off, I am always available to meet one-on-one, too.

Take good care, Dear Ones, stay safe and wash your hands! I am keeping you in my prayers; please keep me in yours.

Much love in Christ,
Pastor Jane

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