



March 18, 2020

Beloved Members and Friends of the Church,

Over the last several days, we have consulted with the Diaconate and Church Council around next steps for our church in these uncertain times. Balancing health concerns, spiritual concerns, the needs of our congregation, and the needs of the greater community around us is all a part of what we are striving to do. Yes, we may have differing opinions on what is best, but we are united in our effort to act from a place of love and care.

Taking into consideration the counsel of our church leadership, the urging of the Maine Conference, and the guidance of President Trump and Governor Mills to refrain from gatherings of more than 10 people, **we will be suspending in-person worship for Sunday, March 22nd and Sunday, March 29th.** A modified service will be recorded (livestreamed Sunday morning if possible) and distributed by Sunday evening. The service will be led by Rev. Josh, Linda Adams (Minister of Music), and a few choir members. Jim Nelon will continue to offer his time and talents to record and publish.

If you have prayer concerns that you wish to be lifted up on Sunday, please email them to [joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net](mailto:joshfitterling@myfairpoint.net) or call (610-750-2688) by Saturday evening. We will also be working with Colleen Crowley (Church School Teacher & Coordinator) to see what virtual resources we can provide for our children and families during these weeks.

Decisions for beyond the end of March will be made as the time comes near. As we move forward in the unknown, may we all hold our next steps in prayer as we too pray for this illness to end and for all who are affected by it. May we do our best to nurture connection, community and care in these uncertain times. To that end, if you have any specific needs, please be in touch! We have members who are willing and able to help out and we can also help connect with necessary resources.

As we were reminded on Sunday, the call to be the church is not canceled. How we do it may look different for a while, but we are still the church. May we always live into that call.

In Christian Love,

*Anne Harris, Council President*

*Jan Whitfield, Council Vice-President*

*Jim Nelon, Diaconate Chair*

*Josh Fitterling, Minister*