



Unitarian Universalists of Santa Fe

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Nurturing hearts and minds, practicing beloved community and working for justice

March 15, 2020

Dear Friends,

We've been thinking a lot about resilience and community lately. We've been noticing the wonderful energy around here and the many ways we connect. We've been enjoying our varied programming and the healthy number of groups in and out of our space. With the concern over Covid-19 looming right now, we are acutely aware of how precious our community is. Please take care of yourselves! We, along with your Board of Trustees and staff are working hard to put appropriate supports and protections in place here at UU Santa Fe so we can stay healthy when we are together and connected when we are apart and continue our work in the community.

Our beautiful building is shared with many different groups and organizations. We are placing soap and water and sanitizer throughout the building so members, renters and guests can ensure their hands and any surfaces they touch are clean. We will be enlisting everyone's support to make this happen.

Our Hospitality and Membership Team are our connections wizards – this year they have hosted a social event or newcomer gathering every single month. These have been an important way for us to build our relationships. For the present, though, it seems prudent to step back from all of our food-centered gatherings and to explore other ways that we can stay connected: we are asking small groups to set up old fashioned telephone trees to check in with one another each week; staff are exploring how to use Breeze to touch base with group leaders, and watch for a messages from your minister and other leaders to keep you in the loop as these things unfold.

The Board of Trustees, the Operations Committees and the Program Council Teams are the leadership groups at UU Santa Fe. They are already in conversation about the experiments named above and will be learning how to use Facebook groups and/or Zoom for meetings, not just so they can keep up with their own efforts but so they can help teach these tools to our social justice teams, small group leaders, adult program facilitators and committees. The goal is to take care of each other so we can help care for our larger community.

We're excited about the newest worship innovation that is emerging in response to the present challenge. We will be live-streaming the worship service on Sunday mornings by the end of the month! So even if you need to stay home you can be part of Sunday morning online. We are also exploring ways to do an interactive small group worship experience online and looking toward the possibility of a regular outdoor service once weather permits.

This community is rich in so many ways. So many people share their passion, creativity, talent, time and money to make our congregation vibrant and to live our UU values in the larger community. Our calm presence, generous energy, deep listening, creative problem solving and far flung connections are needed in this challenging time. This is why we are here. This is what UU congregations are for.

Whatever happens in the days ahead, with your help and support our resourceful and resilient community will find ways to continue nurturing hearts and minds, weaving beloved community and working for justice.

For us to continue our work, we need your financial support. For your staff, Board and Program Council to plan how to do this work, we need a budget. And, to develop that budget, we need your pledge forms. So, please fill it out your pledge form and return it quickly. Our community is built from the many gifts we share! Thank you!

Rev. Gail Lindsay Marriner, Minister, and Mary Ellen Gonzales, Board President