

March 12, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Stone Church,

The Session met by video conference on Wednesday, March 11, to discuss how we might respond to concerns about recent Coronavirus (COVID-19) developments.

There is much we do not know about COVID-19, and what we do know changes rapidly. Even so, as a Session we believe it important to be proactive and provide direction now to protect the health and safety of our congregation and staff.

Considering the actions to limit crowd contact being taken by local and national organizations, political campaigns, and recently, by *First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto*, as a Session we believe taking a cautious approach is prudent. Accordingly, we decided on the following steps:

- Worship services will be held **online only** (please don't come to Stone Church) starting Sunday, March 15, through (and including) Easter, April 12. We plan to use the **Facebook live streaming** for Worship, which we tried last week. While there are some things to work out, it's a start.
- You don't need a Facebook account to access the site, and it will be available Sunday morning. You can access the site directly by clicking this link <https://www.facebook.com/stonechurchwg> or the link on our website home page at <https://www.stonechurch.org/>.
- Committee meetings usually held at the church or elsewhere should find a way to conduct their business online – email, or some other method useful for the committee – the specific choice is up to each committee. That should start right away.
- Because Taizé services are every Tuesday during Lent, Session recommends that the Taizé committee take similar action.

This decision was not taken lightly, or without considerable discussion. We plan to re-visit this decision after Easter when we hope to know more, but we know how fast things are changing.

We are also acutely aware of the sense of community we enjoy at Stone Church. Accordingly, we want to explore ways to connect and keep that sense alive even while we are not together physically. That takes work, and we pray your active minds and hearts will consider and communicate ways that you think might help.

There are many details to work out, so you might be receiving more communications like this one. In the meantime, thank you for your willingness to

work together, and for your patience. And we encourage you to wash your hands, stay at home if you're not feeling well, practice social distancing, and pray for those affected by COVID-19 around the world. And take a long deep breath, and a long exhale. Oh ... and STOP touching your face!

Peace and grace,
Your Session

P.S. Some Useful Information:

- A safe social distance is 6 feet or more.
- Soap and water are preferable to hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer must have at least 60 percent isopropyl alcohol.
- Hand washing needs to be 20 seconds or more. Sing the Doxology once, slowly: *"Praise God from whom all blessings flow ..."*