Beloved Church Family,

In the midst of the chaos and anxiety of COVID-19, I want you to know that you are all in my prayers. As of today, March 14th, we will be closing our building and cancelling all in-person activities including Sunday morning worship (except for NA and AA) at least until March 25th in order to protect the health of everyone. We will then assess whether or not we will reopen at that time. In the meantime, we will be using alternate formats (such as live-streaming, phone, email, and mail) to stay connected.

While social distancing is a great practice to protect our physical health, it can be a burden on our mental and spiritual health. I invite you to check in on your neighbors, church members, and community members during this time. Our prayer team will also be checking in with folks. Please take care of yourself by eating healthy, resting, pushing fluids, washing your hands often, reading a good book, going for a walk outside, doing some art, playing a game, listening to some music, or doing whatever fills your spirit. This is a great time to try some of the practices from our worship series “The Walk” by Rev. Adam Hamilton:

WORSHIP: Pray five times each day

STUDY: Read five verses of Scripture each day

SERVE: Do five acts of kindness each week

SHARE: Tell five people your faith story

GIVE: Practice five acts of extra-ordinary generosity each year

During this time, we would like to help you still feel connected with our faith community and with God. If you have access to the internet, we encourage you to follow us on social media for the latest updates and to watch our Facebook or YouTube livestream on Sunday mornings. I would encourage you to give your tithe/offering online or mail it into the church. For those who do not have online access, we will be mailing out “Worship at Home Kits.” Feel free to do it on your own, but I would also invite you to call a friend and do it together each week.

When Jesus knew that he would be leaving his disciples on earth, he offered them the blessing of the Holy Spirit, saying, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” Friends, we do have to be cautious, but we do not have to be afraid. Know that Jesus is with you always, and know that we are here for you as a church community. Please wash your hands, stay accurately informed, connect with others in a safe way, pray, and hold onto hope that we will get through this together.

In Christ’s Love,

Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy