

**A Message from Rev. Steven
about the Coronavirus
March 11, 2020**

Dear Members and Friends of the UU Church of Kent,

The rise of coronavirus has us all concerned and perhaps fearful since there is so much we don't know about this virus. What we do know is that this is a serious public health crisis, especially for people who have compromised immune or respiratory systems. Knowing that many of you may be more at risk for this virus or have loved ones who are more at risk is weighing heavily on my heart and mind and the hearts and minds of our church staff and leadership.

Your health and well being is our highest priority. I will be working with our Board of Trustees and Staff to create a contingency plan as well as develop policies and procedures to accommodate public health recommendations to help reduce infection. We are closely monitoring corona virus in this community and in the state and following the recommendations of our local authorities.

For the time being, we will continue to hold regularly scheduled services, religious education classes, committee meetings, and activities. We have increased disinfectant practices and are considering how/if we serve food and beverages during our social hour. Our staff and leadership have discretion to cancel programs and activities and will notify you as soon as a decision has been made. We will communicate with you as needed to insure you have information about our congregational life and work as well as information about the virus and ways to protect your health.

We also need your help in order to protect one another. I ask that in the spirit of covenant you follow these practices:

Be sensitive to the concerns of people who don't want to shake hands – try an elbow bump instead.

Wash or sanitize your hands frequently; stay home if you are sick; try to keep your hands away from your face; and clean surfaces that a lot of people touch. Please wash your hands before coffee hour.

If you are not feeling well, PLEASE DO NOT come to church for Sunday services, committee meetings, or any programs or activities.

AND: Please stay calm, do not spread rumors, be a community of mutual care and support, strive to be our best and most loving selves, and reach out to others, especially those who may be isolated, fearful, or struggling with this situation.

For more information on personal prevention measures you should practice, visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

May you be well, may you know peace in these times of fear and worry, and may you join in the work that love calls us to do,

Rev. Steven