



THE FIRST CHURCH

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1 CONCORD STREET, NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03064
TELEPHONE (603) 882-4861 WWW.TFCUCC.ORG

REV. DR. ANDREW W. ARMSTRONG, SENIOR MINISTER
REV. KEN MCGARRY, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES
REV. JAMI D. BOYLE, ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE
JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ, CAGO, MINISTER OF MUSIC

March 20, 2020 COVID-19 Update

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." --Proverbs 16:9

What's the Plan?

Last week, I was worried and anxious. No sooner had one planning session concluded when new information would send our ministry team back to the planning room. I had hoped a heartfelt prayer and a brainstorming session would take care of it. That unrealistic expectation was driving my anxiety. Oddly enough, when I accepted the volatile situation as it is, I began to relax and trust that the Lord's promise is to be with us before, during, and after our best intentions. As Proverbs reminds us, "the Lord establishes their steps," which is another way to say God's with us as we go.

We are on the move. Rev. Jami, the Visitation Team and Deacons are personally communicating with our members and friends. Rev. Ken has updated our technical needs and organized our mobile ministry--it's up and running. Outreach is front loading resources to support community needs that are present and forthcoming. Joseph has arranged music for worship making social distancing an imperative. Supportive staff is bringing it all together.

Be sure to check our website (www.tfcucc.org) and our Facebook page for this Sunday's worship service, forthcoming devotions, and other important information. I'll also be active on WSMN Radio, taking our Gospel message to Nashua and the surrounding community. Below you'll see the course we've taken for ministry. I'm fully aware that you and your loved ones are taking your course of action too; remember that the Lord is with you every step of the way.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Andy

Mobile Ministry

We have members and friends who must remain isolated because of underlying vulnerabilities to COVID-19 or are in quarantine. They have a need for groceries, medications, and connection. We are forming a network of persons who would be willing to shop and deliver necessary food, supplies, and medications. Rev. Ken is coordinating this ministry. If you would like to be part of that team, please inform Rev. Ken at kmcgarry@tfcucc.org. Also, if you have need, or know someone in need, then inform Rev. Ken.

Caring Connections

The Digital Devotion (Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:30)

Social isolation will curb the spread of COVID-19, but it can be emotionally and spiritually painful. Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:30, your ministry team will provide a community check-in via our video conferencing called Zoom or by phone. We'll offer an encouraging message and offer discussion and prayer. Check the website and Facebook for details to connect.

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain remains up and running. Rev. Jami will provide updates on a regular basis so we can be holding up one another and our community before the Lord in prayer. Please direct your prayer concerns to jboyle@tfcucc.org.

No matter who you are, whom you love, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



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Prayer in Shaw Chapel

Shaw Chapel will be open for individual prayer and reflection from 9-3 daily. There will be written prayer guides and a master list for prayer concerns. We urge to you to make good use of the hand sanitizer and practice social distancing for the well-being of others.

Music Ministry and First Music Concert Series

Music Ministry members have received separate correspondence suspending all choir activity through April 12. First Music Concert Series is postponing all programs scheduled for 3/20, 3/27, and 4/5. This includes Fridays at First.

Study Groups Continue Online

Rev. Andy's Wednesday Morning Men's Group continues online.

Christian Education

Rev. Ken is leading confirmation classes online. Also, he and Diane Matthes are establishing an online community for parents of youth and children to offer support, ideas, and encouragement for the challenges caused by disruptions of all our routines.

Pastoral Care

Your ministers are available 24/7 to talk and pray with you as need arises. Our contact information is as follows:

Rev. Andy---978-844-2617 (mobile)

Rev. Ken---203-722-4901 (mobile)

Rev. Jami---603-325-0772 (mobile)

Worship

Worship services will be posted on our website each Sunday up to and through Palm Sunday, April 5th.

Giving

Our financial giving remains crucial to maintain our ministry, to support the spiritual health of the church family, and continue our Outreach to mission partners in and around Nashua. Please mail in your offering or consider e-giving though our website at tfcucc.org/give/.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” --Philippians 4:4-6

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