

Minister's Notes  
April 1, 2020

Dear Board Members,

After meeting with SS via Zoom and planning how to do church safely (no hymnals, chairs moved to give safe distance, alternative to passing the offertory basket), it soon became clear we would need to close the church as of March 15<sup>th</sup>. The first virtual service was technically challenged, but we continue to improve as we learn to use Zoom and other aids. It's been an intense process for the past three weeks or so, and I expect that the need for

I purchased an iPad for videoing the service, and UUCGT now has a music license to avoid violating copyright laws. Last Sunday we had over 70 households sign on to the service, and in our Sunday Services meeting today, we discussed the potential need to increase our capacity in a Zoom upgrade. Mary Van Valin is preparing a service for Earth Day, and she hopes it will appeal to the greater Grand Traverse community. I need to find out if we upgrade our capacity, can we downgrade when we are able to gather once again in our UUCGT building.

Staff and lay leaders have been working collaboratively to find ways to connect with our members and friends. There are virtual office hours, small groups, Vespers, meetings, exercise classes, writing classes, religious education classes, a support group, and more. I'm working on creating a geographic map of our members and friends so that we can create Circles of Care, a way to add an extra layer of protection to be sure that all members and friends are connected and cared for.

The new website is up and running, and Jolynn has installed the DONATE button on the website. We also have a text to give option, but it requires an app on a smart phone. Instructions for getting the Give Plus app will be included in the next Flash.

As this Covid-19 crisis unfolds, things may become more difficult and caring for one another even more essential.

The Transitions office has not indicated that the search process will be hindered by this crisis. This year's church's and candidates adapted with Zoom. It's not ideal, but it works. So, this means we need to get a move on with calling the congregation to gather names for the Search Committee.

My husband has recovered from his surgery and is gradually feeling stronger every day. He was laid off from his job for the time being, but it's probably a good thing that he is not being exposed to unwanted viruses and germs.

See you tonight,  
L, Cathy