

Important Notice: COVID-19 and Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah

Dear Members and Friends of UUCS,

Our UUCS Board of Trustees, along with our minister, Rev. Susan Karlson, has made the decision that effective immediately, UUCS is going virtual for most of our activities, with very rare exceptions. This means that there will be no in-person services starting this Sunday.

Due to the COVID-19 virus and the number of people in the congregation who could be more susceptible to the virus because of age or other underlying factors, UUCS will begin its own form of “social distancing” in order to maximize the safety of our most vulnerable members and friends and anyone visiting the church. In order to do this, we need to “flatten the curve” by restricting our chances to pass the virus off from one person to another and thereby not overstrain our medical system (doctors, nurses, hospitals, and other care organizations). You can visit <https://www.flattenthecurve.com/> for more information and advice about what to do.

In order to do our part to flatten the curve, we have determined that most of our activities can be done virtually. We will be working on this starting with the Sunday service this week, March 15th. We will be using Facebook LIVE. Our administrator, Alan, is working diligently to get the technology together so the service this Sunday can be viewed. Check our website at uusavannah.org for links and information on Sunday morning before 11 am. This Sunday will be a service with our scheduled preacher, Orlando Montoya, and the Minister and Staff members working together to coordinate all aspects of the Sunday service. It will be a simpler service this week, but in the coming weeks we hope to be able to Zoom conference and live stream the service and other aspects of our congregational life so we stay connected and can even see one another. Our Administrator, Alan, will be the communications hub for scheduling and communicating about these gatherings. Please contact him at admin@uusavannah.org if you have any questions about accessing virtual space, or any constructive suggestions.

With the stress and strain brought about by responding to COVID-19 and how it impacts our lives, we are also considering our collective mental, emotional and spiritual health and well being. Don't isolate yourself. Reach out to your friends and neighbors and your church family. Rev. Susan plans to hold a number of weekly gatherings through Zoom so we can express our concerns, our joys and sorrows and stay in touch. As always, Rev. Susan is available for pastoral care. Please call her at (347) 466-0864 or email her at minister@uusavannah.org. Our Staff will be working as usual and you can count on all of them to keep things going. Please know that we have excellent resources from the UUA and other areas but we will be fine tuning virtual meetings as we go along.

The UUA has advised all congregations to limit in-person meetings to a maximum of 25 people. This means that committees and covenant groups may still meet *only if their chairs and/or facilitators decide to meet in person*. Contact your chair or covenant group facilitator to find out if they are meeting in person, particularly for this coming weekend. The church will also set up a

Zoom account for virtual meetings and to live stream the church service, as described above, but it won't be available this weekend.

We will be sharing more information with you as we work out this transition to more virtual meetings. President Susan and Rev. Susan will stay in touch with you as we move along.

In the spirit of life, love and well-being,
President Susan Daggett and Rev. Susan Karlson