April 17, 2020

Dear Unity Family and Friends,

It has been one month since I last sent you a letter to announce our closure of facilities and initial plans for continuing the mission of the congregation. WE have all been learning how to be “church” in the midst of a season of “dis-ease.” I wanted to update you on our efforts and encourage you as we await the time to be together once again.

Worship services have been unfolding well via Facebook Live and are being posted to YouTube and the Unity church website (under the announcement and video header). I appreciate the efforts of our Interim Director of Music, Randy Ide, accompanist Doris Weir, and our Chancel Choral Ensemble (John Gottschall, Jan Timmerman, Monica, and Randy Ide). We are preparing to continue these live stream services through at least May 31st, and we anticipate making them part of our ongoing outreach. Jess Franceschina has been doing a wonderful job of recording the services and posting them, along with other digital materials we are using to stay connected.

We continue to send out information and inspirational reflections on an almost daily basis via email. If you would like a hard copy of these materials, please contact the church office, 412-561-2431 or Pastor Dennis 412-389-6844. We also have an Errand Team if you have a need and should not go out yourself. If you have a need for a facemask, please contact us and we will try to secure and deliver one to you. It is strongly advised for you to wear one now, and I anticipate this will be a summer precaution when we are permitted to enter the general public once again. This season of sheltering has been one of learning new ways to be the Body of Christ in the world. Once we emerge from our “cocooning”, I anticipate a beautiful transition to being even more of a visible sign of God’s love in the world.

Nancy Schultz continues to find innovative ways to send and support faith formation in the home and we are continuing to develop resources to use in the weeks ahead to encourage spiritual disciplines, bible reading, and disciple growth during this “strange time.” We are preparing for a full Summer Season of activity, in hopes of being able to be together for the summer months. The plan is to take “measured steps” in reestablishing the worship, fellowship, ministry, and expanse of our mission service. Of course, these plans are including a “contingency option” so we can share the faith even if at a continued safe distance. To that end, we are including in this mailing our appeal for ministry and mission service through the 2020 Volunteer and Disciple Service program. Please read through the material and prayerfully consider how you would be willing to engage in the various services of ministry and mission through our congregation, once we are free to do so anew!

I appreciate everyone connecting with one another, which is proof of our love for one another within our community of faith and towards the neighbors we are called to serve through our mission station. Remember we are called to, “Serve God, and Love All.”

Be at Peace and Blessed Be,

Pastor Dennis W. Molnar