



Congregational Letter: March 14, 2020
(Response to Coronavirus: COVID-19)

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." – Isaiah 41:10

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Risen Lord:

Well, it's safe to say that we are now in uncharted territory with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Like you, I have been watching the situation develop with great fluidity and, to the best of my ability, assessing what it all means for the people of Kona United Methodist Church (KUMC).

Yes, this situation is very unique and we won't minimize that. However, whether it was September 11th or the economic crisis of 2008-2011, we've lived through some epic and daunting disruptions to the state of the local church and yet continue to be the church and partake in God's mission with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Here's what we know:

1. This too shall pass.
2. God is still in control.
3. This presents yet another opportunity for the people of KUMC to "be" the good news of Jesus Christ to others.

With those things in mind, the leadership team of KUMC and I have decided to maintain our regular weekday activities and Sunday worships with hygienic practices and mindfulness of CDC recommendations (see attachments). In addition, we are exploring the possibility of LIVE Streaming the worship service and/or recording the worship service and posting it on our church website. We will test the doability of it at KUMC starting Sunday, March 22nd.

If you are not well or have symptoms, please stay home. If you do attend worship, use a tissue to cover your cough or sneeze. Wash your hands as often as you can. Hand sanitizers are available all around the church facilities.

I will continue my effort to provide a meaningful worship and ministry at KUMC. Also, I will do my best to bring you the worship experience wherever you are if you are not able to be at church, in person, with the people of KUMC.

Let us not be driven by fear, but overcome fear with faith in God and mindfulness of the situation with hygienic practices. Let us cherish each moment with abundant living in Jesus Christ who is our Healer and Redeemer!

Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn, Senior Pastor