



Congregational Letter #3: March 26, 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:

What a time we are having these days?!? Do you feel bombarded with change from every direction? Do you feel stressed with too little time to adjust and adapt in the rapidly changing world? Do you find it difficult to keep up with everything you need to do? If so, you're not alone. Our rapidly changing world, with the current coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis, is heavily stressing us out and requires us to adjust and adapt consistently. This week, another change has been imposed on us with the STAY-AT-HOME mandate issued by Governor David Ige of Hawaii on Monday, March 23rd.

To comply with this new mandate, once again, we are adjusting the ways we do "church" together, until further notice:

- **Sunday Worship @ 8:30am (Hawaii Time)**
 - **Pre-recorded Worship Service** will be available on our church website (konaumc.com) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/konaumc>).
 - **Worship via ZOOM-LIVE:** Pre-recorded Worship Service will be played on Sundays, at 8:30am (Hawaii Time).
 - <https://www.zoom.us/j/529810528>
 - Meeting ID: 529 810 528
 - **There will be NO in-person worship at Kona UMC.**
 - Please visit our church website (konaumc.com). Worship Bulletins, Worship Video, and Written Sermons will be available during the week.
 - Please email Les Miller (leslie_miller@hotmail.com) your Joys and Prayer Concerns during the week.
- **Offering-** We encourage you to mail your offering to the church office. This might be a good time to think about setting up electronic giving. Please contact Bill Jaeger (bjaegeerhawaii@gmail.com) for details.
- **Church Office-** The physical church office has been closed until April 30th. However, Pastor Sunny is opening "Kona UMC Office with Pastor Sunny" from Monday-Thursday, 10:30am-11am through Zoom-Live. You may stop by to check-in and share how you are doing. When you visit, you are encouraged to share for 1-2 minutes about your "God-moment" or unexpected blessings you've found during this "Stay-At-Home" time. With your permission, this might be added to our Sunday Worship video.
 - <https://zoom.us/j/941436423>
 - Meeting ID: 941 436 423

- **Wednesday Adult Study from 9am-10am** can be joined via ZOOM-LIVE.
 - <https://zoom.us/j/940297757>
 - Meeting ID: 940 297 757

- **Saturday 6am Prayer Service** can be joined via ZOOM-LIVE.
 - <https://zoom.us/j/799862332>
 - Meeting ID: 799 862 332

- **Caring for Our Elders**- A special caring team has been formed to check on our “elder” members. Please contact Gloria Juan (gloriajuan808@gmail.com) if you or someone you know has a special need.

- **Caring for Our Children/Youth**- Pastor Sunny will email “At Home Faith Activities” to the parents of school aged children to help parents find and create activities that can be done with basic supplies around the house.

- **Activities during the week**- All programs requiring in-person participation are suspended until further notice.

Please note that the leadership team of Kona United Methodist Church and I have decided to celebrate “RESURRECTION SUNDAY” on the first Sunday when we come together in-person to worship again. We pray that this *Resurrection Sunday* will come to us sooner than later.

Surely, we continue to be a “church” together - “d·i·f·f·e·r·e·n·t·l·y!” - because we are the church, the body of Christ, who gather for corporate worship and then scatter for service in the spheres of influence God affords us. Like ancient Israel shifting to synagogues when the Temple was destroyed, our worship of God is not limited to a building or space. Like the first disciples of Christ shifting their gatherings to secret places, the people of God continue to worship in Spirit though the venue may change.

This time of physical distancing can be an act of caring for ourselves, our own family, and our neighbors as we continue to acknowledge our dependence on the Creator of the Universe who loves us unconditionally, and promises us that He will never leave us, nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Let us hold on to God while doing whatever we are doing, always doing our best, in these “Stay-At-Home” moments we are given. Please feel free to contact me at home (808-464-4748; pastorsunnyahn@gmail.com). I am here for you.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).



Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn, Senior Pastor