

Greetings, everyone.

I just want to share my thoughts in light of our decision not to hold Sunday service this week.

I'm thinking about how often Biblical messages (from angels, from the Risen Christ to the disciples, etc.) begin with the phrase "Fear not." Of course fear is a natural, and healthy, response and we should not be ashamed of feeling afraid at times. But when we live in that fear, we make choices that are based on fear, rather than based on love or justice or compassion. The Biblical "fear not" messages say to us "there is a message coming that you need to hear, and if you're wrapped up in your fear you'll miss it."

So, in light of this decision about Sunday, I don't want us to get swallowed up in our fear, or the fear that is being fostered by those around us. We make this decision because it may be a wise thing to do. It is also a compassionate thing. Many global communities are in a more threatening situation than we might be. Changing our schedule a bit, and taking some intentional time at home to pray and reflect, helps us connect with others. And that seems like a good thing to do... especially during this season of Lent.

We're not cancelling worship: we're choosing to worship in our homes, and in our actions and our prayers stand in solidarity with our global family as well as our own community.

Thanks for your understanding. Peace.

Rev. Steve