

**COVID-19 RESPONSE  
St Paul's United Church  
18 March 2020**

Health Authorities expect the continuing spread of the Coronavirus and the ensuing illness COVID-19. We are being advised to take significant precautions against the spread of the virus and so we would urge all our folk to take heed and take the advice seriously.

The United Church urges communities of faith to respond to COVID-19 with compassion, prevention, and prayer.

**STAGE TWO**

**We have now been advised by the United Church of Canada  
to suspend meeting for the time being.**

**We will comply immediately.**

**St Paul's Church Council and Ministry & Personnel Committee fully support these measures.**

- This means that we will **NOT** be holding public worship on Sundays.
- We will **NOT** hold any church gatherings, groups, meetings or concerts for the foreseeable future. We are making other arrangements for meetings and we will let the various groups and committees know how we will proceed in due course.
- Our church office will stay open at the regular hours (Tuesdays-Fridays, 9.00am-2.00pm). If this changes, we will let you know.
- We will endeavour to stay in touch with all our folk, to keep you updated and informed.
- We will be offering Live Streamed Worship beginning on Sunday, 22nd March at our usual time of 10.30am (Pacific Time). This will be a 30-minute time of worship and prayer which will be live-streamed from St Paul's sanctuary. We will be providing bulletins via e-mail, on our website and here on Facebook so that you may follow along and join us in prayer and song from the comfort of your own home.
- We will stay in touch with you via e-mail and/or phone call. Please also consult our website regularly for any news from the church. <https://www.stpaulsunitedbc.com/>
- Please read the letter from the Regional Council with regards to ceasing from gathering: [https://pacificmountain.ca/march-16-update-from-treena-and-jay-recommend-halting-gathering-for-services/?fbclid=IwAR3xYkjZlbohWOwv2DmRkr8Uz\\_pXdMVmsbcDvcwCRPO5ucbphXeRx8dXr0Y](https://pacificmountain.ca/march-16-update-from-treena-and-jay-recommend-halting-gathering-for-services/?fbclid=IwAR3xYkjZlbohWOwv2DmRkr8Uz_pXdMVmsbcDvcwCRPO5ucbphXeRx8dXr0Y)

**THERE ARE MANY OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS, BUT AT THIS TIME WE WILL OPERATE IN STAGE TWO.**

**What does "Live streaming" mean?**

We will offer "live streamed" worship on Sunday mornings via Facebook Live on our Church's Facebook page and on our Church Website.

On Sunday mornings, Rev. Suzanna Bates and 2-3 other folk will meet at the church to lead a short worship service which will be filmed and then shown live onto your tablet, smartphone or computer. We will send you the website link so that you can just click the link and it will take you straight away to the worship service.

You do not have to watch “live”. Once the “live” video has been posted, we will keep it available for you to watch at any time. We will also make our Orders of Service available with some responsive prayers and hymns for you to participate in.

**\*\*Though there will be a few people at the church making the video on a Sunday morning we ask that in order to comply with the recommendations from the Health Authority and the United Church of Canada that you do not attend the filming. Please wait to watch it “live” on the Sunday morning at 10.30am or watch it at any other time you choose.**

#### **PLEASE CONTINUE WITH GENERAL PRACTICES TO LIMIT EXPOSURE/PASSING ON INFECTION**

- Wash hands often and properly with soap and water (for at least 15-20 seconds).
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when hand washing isn't possible.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash hands.
- If there is no tissue available, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm, not your hand.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects/surfaces at work and at home, including shared items such as phones, keyboards, remote controls, doorknobs, and handles. Wash hand towels more frequently.

**Please would you direct any questions or concerns through the church office:**

[stpauluc@telus.net](mailto:stpauluc@telus.net)

**Tel: 250-656-3213**

**18 March 2020**