

## **FOUNDRY UMC's RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

Updated 03.12.2020

Foundry UMC takes the personal health and safety of our congregants, staff, and clergy seriously. In this season of uncertainty, we pause to reflect on the words found in **Psalms 46**;

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.*

***“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us.”***

After much discernment, prayer, and deep concern for our most vulnerable populations at risk of exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19), effective immediately, Foundry has decided to temporarily close the building for worship and subsequent community gatherings through March 25. Recent developments from Mayor Bowser's office, the Episcopal and Catholic Diocese, and Bishop Easterling, affirm our decision.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

Regular Sunday worship will stream online, with Foundry clergy conducting one virtual service at 11:15 a.m. on March 15 and March 22. You are encouraged to participate using the following online platforms:

**Facebook Live:** <https://www.facebook.com/FoundryUnitedMethodistChurch/> no login or password required.

**Foundry Website Online:** <https://foundryumc.churchonline.org/> no login or password required.

**Foundry Vimeo Channel:** <https://vimeo.com/user85227976> no login or password required.

### **DISCIPLESHIP and FAMILY MINISTRIES**

Foundry discipleship and family ministry classes and groups are encouraged to meet virtually using any of the technology platforms such as Zoom, Google meetings, etc. More information regarding training and best practices for online meetings, along with updated curriculum, will be shared soon. All other building events listed in previous communications will remain postponed until further notice.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

At a time when social services are stretched to unimaginable limits, Foundry's Social Justice department will continue work supporting community partners who provide direct services. More information about our modified practice will be communicated directly to the Social Justice Ministry teams.

We strongly encourage each of you to check in with one another, call your small group friend, and stay connected in the safest way possible.

In Peace,  
Foundry clergy and staff

## **FOUNDRY UMC's RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

Updated 03.11.2020

In response to the latest development from the DC Health Office regarding communal gatherings, the subsequent building updates have been made:

The following events have been **postponed** until further notice:

- Choir Rehearsal *Wednesday, March 11*
- Orchestra Rehearsal *Saturday March 14*
- Special Music Sunday *March 15*
- Funeral for John Harden *postponed, date TBD*
- The Howard Thurman Retreat *postponed, date TBD*
- Great Day of Service *postponed until October*

The following events this week remain **as scheduled, as of 3:00PM** this afternoon:

- Lenten Evensong mid-week worship
- Sunday Worship with New Members *see 3.10.2020 response to modified worship experience*
- ID Ministry
- Recovery classes
- Cooking classes
- ESL
- Discipleship classes
- Books 2 Prison

We encourage folks who are in any of the [identified vulnerable people groups outlined by the CDC](#), to self-select their level of participation in any of these activities. Our primary goal is the health and safety of our congregation. We will continue to monitor CDC, WHO, and DC Health updates as they develop.

In Peace,  
Foundry clergy and staff

**FOUNDRY UMC's RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**  
Updated 03.10.2020

Foundry continues to monitor the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation closely participating in the Bowser Administration's Update and Preparedness for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and Faith Leaders, publications from the CDC and WHO, and working closely with other community leaders who are recipients of the various ministries extended by Foundry.

Out of an abundance of caution, and in addition to the measures already taken and listed in our 03.06.2020 update, Foundry has made the following adjustments to the facility and Sunday worship experience as follows:

**SANCTUARY**

Effective immediately, there will no longer be tissue boxes or black binders in the pews. We would kindly ask that you submit all prayer requests through our online link found on the main page of our website at <https://www.foundryumc.org/prayer>. We are also asking folks who are present in Sunday worship who would normally share their attendance with us through the black binders, to check in online through the Church Center App. If you have not yet downloaded the App, it is available on both IOS and Android devices.

**SUNDAY OFFERING**

Effective immediately, Sunday morning offering will be collected in stationary baskets located at the back of the Sanctuary, Bell Tower Lobby, and Community Commons. We will have ushers stationed at these areas to ensure proper collection, monitoring, and transferring of offerings to the Finance Office. If you have not done so already, we invite you to utilize our online giving platform through the Church Center App or directly through our website at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/giving>.

**NEW VISITORS**

Effective immediately, we will ask all new attenders or visitors to fill out their information online through a form found directly on our website at <https://foundryumc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/111028>

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A new link on the main page of our website will have this information, as well as building updates for any cancellation of classes, meetings, or events until further notice.

In Peace,  
Foundry clergy and staff

## **FOUNDRY UMC's RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

Updated 03.06.2020

Foundry UMC takes the personal health and safety of our staff, clergy, and congregants seriously. As a result of the growing concerns related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Foundry offers the following recommendations to remain safe:

- Hand-washing is your best self-defense against the spread of germs. Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, specifically after using the restroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Utilize one of the hand sanitizing stations throughout the facility.
- Substitute handshakes with elbow bumps, peace signs, or hand-waves, particularly during Passing of the Peace.
- If you are not feeling well, or experiencing any signs of illness, please take advantage of our online worship through Facebook live or our Vimeo link on our website.

Foundry staff and clergy will continue the following practices:

- Washing hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Sanitize hands repeatedly during communion.
- Wiping down door handles 2 times a day, 4-6 times on Sundays.
- Closely monitoring updates by both the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization.

Out of an abundance of caution, Foundry is also doing the following:

- Advising staff to telework, as outlined in our personnel handbook, with any signs of illness.
- Prepared to serve communion in the following months using individual, pre-filled, sealed, compostable communion cups and individual wafers.

We will continue to update this document as the need arrives.

In Peace,  
Foundry clergy and staff