

March 18, 2020

Beacon - Always Connected - How We'll Do Virtual Church

"Come, come whoever you are. Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving. Ours is no caravan of despair. Even if you've broken your vows a thousand times. Come, yet again, come." – Rumi

Friends,

The safety guidelines presented by the coronavirus threat pushes us out of the ordinary and out of our comfort zones to create a framework for doing church differently. Even for those who have a disdain for technology (or feel clumsy with it) and those who avoid social media might look more positively on the opportunities these tools offer us for meaningful "virtual church" – worship, social gatherings, religious exploration of youth and adults, resource sharing, pastoral care, and communication.

Our Beacon team has pulled together to bring us through this time (however long it lasts) with as much connection as possible. Our office manager, Ben Jefferies, will be working his usual schedule. He is reachable at office@beaconuu.com 928-779-4492

I ask, as your minister, that you participate in our Beacon virtual church to both give and receive support and presence during this challenging time for our community and our planet. If you need assistance with technology, we are here to provide it (and there are some links below to get your started). "Our is no caravan of despair. Come, yet again, come."

Preparation:

In order to prepare for Beacon Virtual Church, please take a moment to make these connections:

Technology -

- Bookmark the <http://www.beaconuu.com> website on your browser for easy access. Sign up there for the weekly e-news if you have not done so already. (if your browser is limited, we recommend downloading and using Google Chrome)
- Go to www.youtube.com and subscribe to our channel: "**Beacon UUC**" Video recordings of worship services will be posted here beginning March 22, 2020.
- Be prepared to receive links for **Zoom video** chats and groups. Invitation links will be posted and you only need to click on that link to be connected. However, it is best to connect early in the event that you need to **download the application at zoom.us** before being connected. (see tech tips below for Zoom)
- We will also use "**Google hangouts**" – you will receive links to the hangouts to click and join.
- **Facebook** – I know some folks avoid Facebook. That said, our "[Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation](#)" page will have many resources posted there. You can adjust privacy settings to whatever extent feels comfortable for you. If you join Facebook or

already have Facebook, please “like” our page and even invite others to like it. This increases our visibility in the community.

Tech tips for Zoom:

Here is a YouTube video on how to join a Zoom meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGbpwZNW3oI>

Zoom support also has a video on how to join a meeting.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

If you prefer, here is an illustrated text explanation that you can print out.

https://www.goucher.edu/learn/graduate-programs/distance-learning-resources/documents/student_documents/HowtoParticipateInAZoomMeeting.pdf

Virtual Worship:

Our Virtual Worship team – Rev. Robin, Gabe Hernandez (our Music Director), Rebecca Prizznick (our Accompanist) and Kim Angelo (Worship Associate) will be recording a service each week on Thursday evening. It will be posted to our youtube channel prior to Sunday morning.

Beginning March 22, 2020, **recorded videos** of a weekly worship service will be posted on our youtube channel (Beacon UUC). You can watch at the regular time (Sundays at 10 AM) or on your own schedule.

A sermon description will be posted in all the usual places – Facebook, website and e-news.

Links for this recording and a sermon transcript will be available on “Sermons” page of our website the following week.

A virtual social hour will take place either on Zoom or Google hangouts (we will determine which works best) on Sundays at 11 AM. Invitation links will be posted. Please join early if you need to get your technology in order.

Preparing for Virtual worship:

- **Review the technology** preparation tips above.
- **Download and print the virtual worship order of service.** This will be the same from week to week. If you cannot print a copy, we will have some paper copies in the office for you to pick up or have sent to you. The hymns lyrics and all other liturgical elements will be consistent and can be found there. Download here: [PDF](#) or [Word](#)
- **Chalice at home** – we will be lighting chalices together and reciting some unison words. You can light a real or battery candle and even make a small chalice if you wish. The easiest is to glue a small clay flower pot to a clay flower pot tray. These can be personalized with craft materials. Here are some simple instructions: <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/session14/119827.shtml>
- **Virtual offering** – Supporting Beacon financially during this time apart is especially important. We are installing the **Vanco** application on our website for secure virtual donations to the offering plate. A “**Donate**” button will be on the Beaconuu.com homepage. We ask that you trust this application (100s of churches use it) and open an account for this purpose. Another option is to send a check to Beacon for the offering plate and write “offering” in the note.

- **Social hour** will take place at 11 AM on Sundays on either Zoom or Google Hangouts (links will be posted)

Religious Exploration

Youth:

- On-site Religious Exploration for children, OWL, and Building Bridges will be on hiatus.
- **Horton Hears A UU: Life Lessons from Dr. Seuss” will continue!** Each week, we’ll post on the “[RE News](#)” page on the website with videos, craft activities, and reflective questions you can explore at home. Other creative links will be posted there, such as Chalice coloring pages and other UU-related activities.

Adults:

- We plan to offer **Chalice Circles, lunch and coffee meet-ups** and other groups through Zoom or Google Hangouts. Links and details will be posted. The monthly [Touchstones Journal](#) is posted on our website and linked in the e-news. If you haven’t participated in Chalice Circles before, this might be the time to try it!
- **Check the “RE News” Adult section** for other links, resources and downloads that we are compiling, like this gorgeous mandala coloring book I found online.
- UU Santa Fe has posted these excellent curated self-study resources for Adult faith development: <https://www.uusantafe.org/curated-adult-self-study-resources.html>

Meetings:

- Committee and leadership meetings will take place on Zoom or Google hangouts. Invitations links will be sent in advance. If you wish to schedule a meeting, send the details to the office manager. If you need help with the technology set-up, please ask.

Pastoral:

- As always, Rev. Robin is available for pastoral care or just plain old conversations. We can meet “virtually” through zoom, facetime, or by phone.
- A minister’s discretionary fund exists to assist congregants with life needs – funds for food, heat, etc.
- Please fill out this resources and needs survey so we can support the community and each other. <https://forms.gle/iaYDHKc7jH2eaiF46>

We are Beacon-Always Connected!

*Even though we are apart,
Conversations will not be cancelled.
Relationships will not be cancelled.
Love will not be cancelled.
Self-care will not be cancelled.
Spirit will not be cancelled.
Hope will not be cancelled.
We will not be cancelled.*

May we lean into the good stuff that remains.

In faith and affection,
Rev. Robin