

Update from Sharon Hope United Church regarding COVID 19.

We have all watched as the concerns over the new corona virus have grown over the last few weeks. The information we are receiving is being continually updated and with each update, changes before we have fully processed the previous information. As a community of faith, we need to ensure the health and safety of our members as well as our staff, but also be mindful that people turn to their community of faith in periods of stress and uncertainty. We need to continue to strike a balance, allowing everyone to safe and yet supported.

Last Sunday, we held a worship service. We followed the recommendations from the UCC and had heightened cleaning practices, people used hand sanitizer on arrival and practiced social distancing in the sanctuary. The offering plates were not passed from person to person. Coffee time was cancelled.

**Today, with new measures in place, the United Church of Canada is stating that it would be prudent to suspend in-person worship at this time. As such, we will not have worship services in the church for the next several weeks. Once we have been advised that it is safe to resume worship gatherings, we will let you know.**

In the interim, we will be sharing a list of worship options; streaming worship services, on line prayers and the sermon from Sharon Hope is being posted on our web page [sharonhopeunitedchurch.ca](http://sharonhopeunitedchurch.ca). We will be creating a phone tree to be able to connect with everyone affiliated with the church. If you need pastoral support care or know of someone who would benefit from something as simple as a phone call, please call the church office at 905-478-2231.

For those of you who are caring for children during the extended March Break, the Living Presence Ministry has linked with the Go Project to provide daily activities for various age levels. The links are at [www.thegoproject.ca](http://www.thegoproject.ca) , look for virtual camps.

Sharon Hope United Church takes great pride in being a caring community. As a community of faith, we are called to pray for each other, but also to reach out to one another. Please reach out to one another through phone calls, email and texts. Staying connected is important. Continue to remember everyone in prayer.

Betty Trach  
Chair of Council