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Dear Friends in Christ;

With the current COVID-19 situation constantly in flux, Chinook Winds Executive and our Executive Minister have recommended that “Communities of Faith and Ministries do not hold public worship services.” To that end we will be cancelling worship services until further notice. We believe that the circumstances warrant such a decision as we strive to do our best to contain the spread of the virus. The letter from the Region reminded us that it is “A Generous Act” as we seek to prevent further spread of the virus or put anyone’s health at risk.

Also suspended for the time being will be all group programs within the church, including Choir, Bible Study, Youth Group, Harmony Group and any outside program groups meeting in our building.

The Board and Staff are working hard to ensure that everyone is fully informed and kept up to date on all developments. Please refer to Provincial and Federal guidelines for safe health practices www.alberta.ca/covid19.

We will send out regular emails to those on our mailing list and make arrangements to call those who do not have email. If you are willing to make calls, please contact Julia.

We are also creating a list of those who will be able to run errands should anyone need assistance with groceries, medications, etc. Please be in touch if you can either help with these tasks or need assistance.

Diane and Julia will continue to be in the office during the week fielding calls and maintaining a communication hub. Please feel free to call or email us (see email addresses in header of this letter). We will send out a written bulletin weekly with updated information.

As for the Spiritual and Congregational Care of the community, Julia and Matthew Heesing from Diamond Valley are working on a plan to provide pastoral and spiritual care for all. This will include regular contact with people through emails and calls. We will let you know more details as we have them.

We have planned a program called **DailyFaithVids** that will come into your inbox daily for the foreseeable future. This will come from a gmail account called “DailyFaithVids” so watch for that. More details to follow.

We recognize that this will be a difficult time for some as we are more socially isolated. This can be stressful emotionally, mentally and spiritually. This is a time to stay calm and non-anxious. Scripture reminds us, “do not fear.” Turn to God in difficult times.

We will continue to monitor the recommendations and guidelines from government authorities and will work hard to keep our communities of faith safe and informed.

We ask for your patience while we manage this ever-evolving situation.

Let us pull together in faith and love to support and encourage each other. We will weather this situation with grace and kindness. Please reach out to neighbours, friends and church members, especially those who are more isolated, as we seek to care for each other. Please keep the world, the country and the church in your prayers as we seek to limit the effects of this virus.

The letter from the Region to Communities of Faith ended with this: “Continue to lean into the power of prayer and spiritual mindfulness practices, as well as the physical distancing and cleanliness precautions required of us now, in caring for yourself and one another. As is being said in Italy, ‘Let us keep our distance now so that we can embrace each other tighter tomorrow.’”

In all things we trust that “***we are not alone***” and that God will guide us in the coming weeks.

You are in our prayers.

Peace and Strength,

Rev. Julia Kimmett and Karen Pryznuk

Minister

Chair of the Board