Dear Friends,

So much has transpired in the months since we've been together; much more has transpired in the world in the last few weeks.  You all have been much on my heart; your names and needs have been prayed over in the wee hours of the morning; I am so eager to see you again.

In the meantime, **I write to let you know that COR will not hold in-person gatherings in the weeks to come.**As Covid-19 has taken up residence on US soil, we will join our wider community in mobilizing to limit its spread. For now we pause, work to keep one another safe by limiting in-person contact, and practice being church across some distance.

Here are some ways we are striving to be the church:

* Worship.  Our congregation is gathering for worship using Zoom, a video-conferencing platform. We will gather each week at 10:30 for a virtual coffee hour and at 11:00 for worship. If you have a webcam and internet browser, you can join this video conference by clicking this link: <https://zoom.us/j/852408685>. If you want to call in from your phone and be present via voice, you can call 1-646-558-8656, and, when prompted for a meeting ID, enter 852 408 685.
* Prayer.  **How can we pray for you?**In both services above, I'll include a list of prayer requests from our community.  Please respond to this email if you'd like to add yourself or others to it.  We are mindful that anxiety is running high, that some worry about their own health, others about their loved ones, others about jobs or lost wages.  We know much is being asked of our healthcare providers, and that many of us are engaged in work with populations particularly vulnerable as our social structure adapts to the demands placed upon it.  We know there are students in our midst whose semesters are disrupted.  Prayer is the church's rich gift and privilege; please allow us to practice it by offering your joys and concerns liberally.
* Caregiving: This is a particular gift of COR's!  **Is someone from the community on your heart?  Please reach out to them** to check in.  Let's practice our robust peace-passing across telephone lines and email inboxes while it becomes clearer how to stay safe in person.  (If you need contact information for someone in the church, Michelle can help with that.)
* Discernment. **Your Council is meeting via conference call regularly**to chart a path forward for the church's work in the days to come.  If you have particular questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to a Council member--names are listed below my signature.  We will be taking things one week at a time right now but will keep you posted about regular church meetings and upcoming worship.

Below is contact information for myself, for Jen Kane, our Council president, and for Michelle Garraux, our church administrator.  **Please know we are eager to be available to you as you have needs and questions.**  We are making sure that those among us who do not use email regularly are getting this message, too.

The opening verses of Psalm 46 have always been meaningful ones to me in times of uncertainty: "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."  May you feel God's steadiness upholding you today.

God be with you all.

Elizabeth

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Council Members:

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