

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter

Celebrating 150 years and counting



FUUSE
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Rev. Kendra Ford
Minister

Dawn Huebner
Chair, Board of Trustees



Dear FUUSE Friends –

We had some sweet moments this fall with outside office hours, the spooky church yard, and the youth group meeting in the courtyard. How wonderful that we got to see one another in these ways.

Unfortunately, Current COVID-19 trends demand that we change the way we are physically together. The COVID-19 Task Force met on Sunday and talked about the events of the fall and what changes need to be made moving forward. NH went from something like 20 daily cases over the summer to over 300 daily cases recently. NH DHHS has said they can no longer keep up with the contact tracing in the state. When the case level is this high, the situation could quickly become critical.

In order to keep everybody safe, we are going to return to “Phase Zero,” no longer allowing people other than staff to be at FUUSE, even outside. It is easy for us to feel safe at our beloved church and with our community members because in many ways, we are safe at church. This is also a place where we come to find and build connections. And the virus plays by different rules. It’s sad and lonely but we must reduce our physical contacts at FUUSE until that curve flattens.

So, for the foreseeable future:

- No group gatherings, inside or outside.
- We ask that you not stop by the Parsonage or Church buildings. Nancy is working in the Parsonage and Emily uses the Church basement. For now, Kendra is working from home, stopping in occasionally in the evening to get things. On Saturday morning our bookkeeper is in the office and Sundays our cleaners come. It is important that these essential tasks continue with no contact.
- Pause all moving-in activities, even people working alone, because we need to let the space be available to staff to the work safely. With transmission rates this high, it is best for non-essential work to pause.
- Please get in touch with the COVID-19 Task Force covid.taskforce@exeteruu.org if you have an idea for an event that falls within these new guidelines, one that would allow folks to drop off or pick up or participate in something at scheduled times (e.g., buying a wreath, decorating outside). We are open to finding creative ways to stay connected while keeping everyone safe.
- Thank you for maintaining these disciplines, even when it is hard. It’s how we take care of each other in these strange times.

If you are planning to share a Thanksgiving meal with people who are not the people you live with or have very clear pod agreements with, I strongly encourage you to change your plans. It’s hard to do. This pandemic is at a critical point and I don’t want you to be caught up in a huge spike in cases; either catching it or unwittingly passing it along. There is real loss in this. And we are here to engage each other’s creativity and keep everybody safe.

This winter we will need to be creative and intentional about how we stay connected to each other. There is no doubt this is hard. And one thing that has amazed us over and over again, is your creativity and resourcefulness. Keep an eye out for holiday plans of all sorts at FUUSE and ways for us to enter the new year together with anticipation and open hearts.

Be well - Rev. Kendra and Dawn, Board Chair