



# ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Hi lovely friends,

It's time I give you all an update on this year's High School Summer Service trip to the Navajo Reservation in NE Arizona. After much discussion and with a heavy heart I need to let you know that the trip for this summer is cancelled. I did not make this decision lightly and without tears of my own. This trip is something the youth and I look forward to every single year all year long.

Due to the uncertainty that surrounds Covid-19 and the undetermined date of when we may be able to safely gather again, let alone, travel into different communities, I painfully think it is in the best interest of our group and of the Navajo community to postpone this trip until next summer. I have put us on their calendar for the same week next year, we would leave Encinitas, **Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 and return to Encinitas, Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>** to preach on the 8<sup>th</sup>. I ask you to please keep that week free on your family calendars.

Back to this year, I am still going to ask you to block off **July 31-August 8<sup>th</sup> 2020** (the existing trip dates) should we be able to gather again. I am working to come up with a back-up plan that wouldn't involve such far travel but would give us time to grieve, heal and grow from this experience.

I also ask that you keep our Navajo and other Native brothers and sisters in your prayers. They're communities are being devastated by the virus due to underfunded, inadequate and inaccessible medical facilities alongside pre-existing health conditions that are putting so many minority groups at even greater risk. Please pray, please advocate.

Please know that you can call, text or email me any time about anything. This is so hard to accept, and I don't think I have yet. I love you all so much and am praying for all of us during this time.

Love,

Constance Mithelman  
Cell: 515-401-2631  
Email: [youth@standrewsepiscopal.org](mailto:youth@standrewsepiscopal.org)