

Important Message About COVID and First Parish Meetings

Dear Chalice Leaders, Committee & Board Members

Since the pandemic began in March, staff and the Safe Congregation Committee have been closely following the US and the State of Maine's CDC guidance, observing community trends and following the national UUA's recommendations. We moved our worship service to an on-line platform, closed our building to rentals, developed protocols for chalice groups and committees to follow for in-person meetings outside the building and staggered the staff's work days and also shifted to work from home.

We can all be proud of the work we have done to adapt to this novel situation. We have been able to utilize technological avenues to see one another, connect spiritually and conduct church business. This has been a hardship for us all. Let's not lose sight of the fact that we've been able to keep each other safe through our hard work and sacrifice. The coming months will be our last push to see this pandemic through to the other side with the administration of vaccines on the horizon.

For now though, due to sharply rising COVID cases in Maine, it is important for all First Parish committees and chalice groups to be on the same page about meeting guidelines. If you have not begun to move your groups to an on-line only meeting method, please do so now. ***Any First Parish sanctioned church activities should only convene through an on-line platform.*** If you are already doing so, thank you. If you are experiencing challenges making the transition, please feel free to reach out to your Ministry Liaison Team representative, Chalice Group Coordinator, or Sheila in the office to help you navigate the transition.

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