Non-Medical Face Masks Available

With the new CDC recommendation to use a non-medical cloth face covering as an additional public health measure, the UUFM has received a limited quantity of handmade cloth face masks (not medical-grade) for distribution to our members/friends. The pleated face masks are sized for adults with two layers of cotton fabric and a layer of interfacing. There are two styles available - elastic ear loops or ties. The ear loop style is best for quick trips or brief interactions (easier on/off, little looser fit). The tie style is better for extended wear and prolonged interactions (more adjustable, better face seal). The tie style are also latex-free.

If you need a mask for personal use, send an e-mail to Becky at bzfrogz@gmail.com and specify the number and style (ear loops or ties) you need and whether you can pick them up or need delivery. There are limited quantities of each style and will be available while supplies last. There is no charge for these masks. We will get back to you with pickup time/location or delivery arrangements (contact-less, if possible).

President's Message: It's Spring... No, wait, it's still winter...

As I write this (Tuesday), the temperatures are in the Sixties. As you read this (Wednesday), we are expecting frost overnight for the next few days.... We're Minnesotans--we'll get over it and get on with it. And so we will with the Covid Crisis.

We held our first "socially distanced" Board meeting last week. The Board has been authorizing the staff to work remotely and has been extending customary pay to discretionary staff (childcare workers, housecleaning, etc.). And we authorized the Minister to shift resources to augment the Minister's Discretionary Fund, as needed. This fund gives her resources to provide emergency support to people who request it (whether they are members or not).

The shutdown of our public space appears to be proceeding well. We are monitoring the building daily just to make sure we catch early anything that might break or need attention (humidity, etc.). The operating pledge campaign is still continuing; we hope to wrap it up by the end of this month (so, if you haven't gotten your pledge in....).

We also discussed the Annual Meeting. We have rescheduled it for May 31, in the hope that the ban on large group gatherings will have been lifted by then. If it is not, we are also making plans to hold the Annual Meeting by Zoom. Usually, we consider recommendations for the next year's budget at the Annual Meeting. This year we will probably propose an interim budget to get us a few months into the next year's budget cycle, but propose that, after business returns to normal, an additional Congregational Meeting be called to recommend a budget for the remainder of the year.

As always, we are here for each other. Please, keep Rev. Rita informed as your circumstances change. And let us know when you need help of any sort (transportation, deliveries, meals, yardwork, computer help—you name it).