Dear Friends of Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen,

As the largest emergency feeding program in New York City, it has been our privilege to support the Chelsea community for nearly four decades. The work we do with the guests we serve would not be possible without the unwavering commitment of our Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen volunteers. Our gratitude for all who come through our doors every day is enormous, and the well-being of everyone in this vital community is paramount to us.

With this in mind, and in consultation with our civic leaders and community partners, we have made the decision to temporarily suspend our volunteer program and modify our operations. This means that beginning on Monday, March 16 through Friday, April 3rd, our meal service will shift to a daily bagged lunch that will be distributed in our courtyard in front of the church. Staff will distribute meals to our guests on weekdays during our usual hours of 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

Our weekly Backpack Pantry Program will also take place in our courtyard. Enrolled families should arrive to swap their food pantry bags during our standard hours of 3:00-5:00 pm on Thursdays.

The modification of our programming extends to the cancellation of many support services on which our guests depend. With hundreds of social service interactions happening on site every week, we will strive to meet the most pressing needs of those we serve and will continue to shift our responses to those needs in accordance with what is best for the health and safety of this community.

New Yorkers stick together during challenging times. It is at the core of who we are. During these first two weeks of March 2020 alone, we have provided 7,083 hot meals to hungry New Yorkers, always without question or qualification. Although our operations are shifting temporarily in response to COVID-19, we remain true to our important mission to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, seek justice for the homeless, and provide a sense of hope and opportunity to those in need. Stay tuned for ways to remain involved during this challenging time.

We will continue to monitor communications from NY State, NY City Department of Health as well as the Center for Disease Control. We will remain in communication and will let you know when our programming is reinstated. Until then, we encourage you to take the necessary precautions to remain healthy.

As always, we thank you for your steadfast dedication to supporting New Yorkers in need.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Anna S. Pearson
Executive Director