



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

129 Chestnut Street * Toms River, New Jersey 08753-5306

Phone 732-349-8155 Email office @fumctr.com

www.fumctr.com

March 17, 2020

Dear First Church Family,

I hope this message finds you well as we experience this life-changing event together. I continue to believe that *God is STILL good, all the time!* I know you join me in that belief.

Yesterday, I consulted with our leadership chairpersons and informed them that I have decided to cancel our worship services and all in-person programs through March 29th. In the coming weeks, the chairpersons and I will assess how the situation has developed and how we will proceed beyond March 30th.

I have come to this decision based on Governor Murphy's daily briefings and the CDC guidelines that discourage groups larger than 10 from meeting. The decision to cancel has been a difficult one, but the purpose is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect our First Church family and the greater Toms River community.

Obviously, this reality leads to a new way of "doing church" for a while. Here are some things we are doing beginning today:

1. The new church office hours will be 9am – 12:30pm until further notice. If you are feeling ill, please do not come into the office. Most questions can be answered by phone or email.

2. The pastors will be putting together weekly worship videos that you will be able to access at the following link beginning Saturday evening - www.fumctr.com/onlineworship. This link will also be on our Facebook page.

3. Pastor Wes will be doing a weekly Facebook live devotional beginning this Friday at 1pm, and, then, every Thursday at 10am going forward.

4. Our Sunday School families will have online Sunday School. Those families have already been given the login information.

5. Pastor Wes will also be meeting through social media with our youth and college students.

As you know, the situation is a fluid one. Things may change and I encourage you to check regularly the *update button* on our website www.fumctr.com for any breaking church news.

Most importantly, please join me in praying for our world as we lift up all those affected by this virus. If you are in need of support please contact the church office and let your church family know what we can do for you. It is in times like these that we can be truly thankful for our faith community.

Peace,

Pastor Ed

ed@fumctr.com