



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Phone 732-349-8155 ~ www.fumctr.com

March 31, 2020

Dear First Church Family,

Today, as every day, we worship a God who draws us together even if we might be physically apart. Please know that Pastor Wes & I are praying for each of you and are in the process of calling as many of you as possible in order to check-in and share a tiny bit of fellowship. If you happen to know of anyone who we should call sooner than later, please let us know as soon as possible. You can call me at the church number above and leave a message in my voicemail box or email me at ed@fumctr.com.

In this weekly email update, let me share some vital information with you...

1. Based on federal, state & CDC guidelines regarding social distancing, we have decided to cancel all worship services and all in-person gatherings through at least April 30th. We came to this decision after consulting with our chairpersons. At the end of April, the chairpersons and I will assess how to proceed after 4/30.
2. We will continue our online worship as we have for the last two weeks. In addition, we will have two re-imagined Holy Week services. During the **Holy Thursday Communion** service (4/9), we will be serving virtual communion. So...have some grape juice and bread handy when you tune in! Also, we will have a re-imagined **Good Friday** service (4/10) that I believe will allow us to remember Jesus' sacrifice for us in a new way.
3. It is important that **EVERYONE** is getting the information in these **weekly emails**. If you know of anyone who has an email address and is not receiving these updates, contact the office at office@fumctr.com – If you know of someone without an email address, please pass this information to them.
4. Continue to **forward** our **online worship** to as many people as possible! And remember to **press the LIKE button on our Facebook page** so you are notified when we post a video.
5. The church office hours have been modified to 10am – 12:30pm Monday through Friday. Again, if you are feeling ill, please do not come into the office. Most questions can be answered by phone or email by our staff who are working their full schedules remotely.
6. We know that the weeks ahead might be a financially pressing time for your family, and you may not be able to give at the same level you're used to. For others who have the ability to work from home with a steady paycheck, we ask that you continue to give, and even consider whether you can fulfill a portion of your annual pledge in advance at this time, so that ministry will not be interrupted. For those of us who may be trying to save money by remaining at home, we ask that you prayerfully discern how you can help as others struggle in this difficult time.

I am sure of one thing.
God *will* see us through!

If you need me, contact me anytime.
Much love,

Pastor Ed
ed@fumctr.com

Electronic Giving Address: www.fumctr.com/donate

To Mail Your Offering (thank you for the gift of a stamp!)
ATTN: Financial Secretary, First UMC
129 Chestnut Street, Toms River, NJ 08753

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