



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
129 Chestnut Street * Toms River, New Jersey 08753-5306
Phone 732-349-8155 ~ www.fumctr.com

April 28, 2020

Dear First Church Family,

Ya know, whether it feels like it or not...time flies when you're social distancing! It seems like yesterday we were worshipping on March 15th in the middle of Lent. And in the blink of an eye, we are only a stone's throw away from Mothers' Day, honoring our service members who made the ultimate sacrifice, flag flying and Bar-B-Ques! Now, regardless of how you feel about the "flying of" or the "slow roll" of time – we are STILL STANDING and God has a powerful plan for First Church. Praise to the Lord!

Please remember: you can call me at the church number above and leave a message in my voicemail box or email me at ed@fumctr.com, anytime. I would love to speak with you. The prayer chain is also available for prayer concerns/joys at office@fumctr.com or the church office phone number.

In this weekly email update, let me share some new & not-so-new information with you...

1. In conversation with our chairpersons, we have decided to **cancel all worship services and all in-person gatherings through at least May 31**. Even though businesses may begin a gradual re-opening during the next 30 days, I cannot imagine that a gathering of 320 people (our typical attendance) will be permitted in May. This makes me sad, but I do not see any other option. We will re-examine what to do going forward at this time next month.
2. This Sunday (May 3) we will celebrate **ONLINE COMMUNION**. So, before you start watching the worship service, please have some bread and juice ready for you and your family.
3. Thank you so much for **forwarding our worship videos!** Netflix has nothing on us. We now have 8 videos for you and everyone you know to binge watch. Hey...it beats *Tiger King*.
4. I know you do not need me to remind you that the ongoing ministry of First Church depends to a great extent on regular financial support. The details for giving are below. I am grateful to you for the many ways you have continued our shared ministry and pray for the strength you need to navigate through these difficult and sometimes scary times. Thank you for your continued support of your church family. **We will get through this and we will be stronger than ever!**

"...and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

-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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