



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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“Now faith is confidence
in what we hope for and
assurance about
what we do not see.”

~Hebrews 11:1

May 12, 2020

Dear First Church,
I am truly grateful for your overwhelming support and cooperation as we offer the love of Jesus in this time of social distancing. Although we may be “distant,” it is our goal to remain spiritually close and available to one another. “Blest be the Tie!”

Please remember: The prayer chain is available for prayer concerns/joys at office@fumctr.com or the church office phone number.

In this weekly email update, let me share some newsy news...

1. Congratulations to Scott Bilquist who has received the Denman Evangelism Award from the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church! You can read the article at this link: <https://www.gnjumc.org/content/uploads/2020/05/0520-GNJ-The-Relay-May-WEB.pdf>
His article is on page 9. *Please note:* Even though the *Relay* mistakenly refers to him as “Reverend” he is still the humble Scott we all know and love!
2. Please call me or Pastor Wes at any time if you or someone you know has a pressing need, or if you simply want to talk! Although we are physically separated from one another, *we need not feel isolated!* We are, after all, one body, the church of Jesus Christ, and by staying together we will emerge victorious!
3. Your Church Council met via Zoom on Monday, 5/11/20 at 6pm for a Special Charge Conference. In the conference, it voted unanimously to accept a Payroll Protection Plan loan to assist us with payroll and utilities for a very brief time (through June 30). After we account for proper distribution with Lakeland Bank, the loan becomes a grant that we do not have to pay back.
4. Thank you so much for forwarding our worship videos! Make sure you like us on FB and keep sharing with everyone you know.
5. So far, our church is “holding its own” regarding our finances. We have been able to continue ministry and reach out to our community through food assistance, the worship videos and other efforts. But we can’t pull this off without your support. I know that some are struggling in this time. If we can help you, contact me directly and we will get you the help you need. And, whether you send your offering through the mail or give online on the website (giving info. below), I so appreciate each of you who have chosen to give faithfully through this crisis. You are honoring Jesus heroically. Thank you!

Electronic Giving Address: www.fumctr.com/donate

To Mail Your Offering (*thank you for the gift of a stamp!*)

ATTN: Financial Secretary, First UMC
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I love you,

Pastor Ed

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