



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
129 Chestnut Street \* Toms River, New Jersey 08753-5306  
Phone 732-349-8155 ~ [www.fumctr.com](http://www.fumctr.com)  
\*Prayer Chain: [office@fumctr.com](mailto:office@fumctr.com)

Dear First Church,

In addition to the ongoing sadness brought about by coronavirus, our nation's heartache has doubled with the killing of an African-American man in Minneapolis while in police custody. George Floyd's death is serving as a representation of all systemic racial injustice in our country and has led to unimaginable unrest.

*"A gentle word turns  
away wrath, but a harsh word  
stirs up anger..."*  
~ Proverbs 15:1

There is no doubt that some outside influencers have commandeered several of the demonstrations and used them for personal gain and to stir up hate. Please do not let the actions of those well-placed and well-strategized few dilute the visceral pain and fear that minority children of God feel in this country. We, the church of Jesus, should be the group of people who love first and ask questions later. So, please pray for our nation, especially those who feel marginalized by our action and/or inaction. As God's people, we must always be willing to listen to the cries of the oppressed in whatever form they take.

Here's your weekly update...

1. The **Church Council meetings** (on Zoom) to establish a practical policy for re-opening the facilities for public worship will be held at 6:30pm on June 16 and June 23 (Tuesdays). More meetings may be needed but we will start with two. These meetings will assist us in preparing for the process, so that whenever it is safe to open, we will be ready. As of this writing, New Jersey still only allows 10 persons to meet inside and 25 outside.
2. Congratulations to our **12 Educational Assistance Fund recipients!** We are very proud of them. If you missed seeing their great pictures, you can see them on our May 31<sup>st</sup> online worship service at [fumctr.com](http://fumctr.com). Also, this Sunday (June 7) is **Communion Sunday**, so have you elements ready.
3. **Do you know anyone who has a pressing need?** Make sure you contact me or Pastor Wes at any time if you or someone you know has a need to connect. We are doing our best to stay in touch with as many as possible, but sometimes need to hear from YOU about the needs of others that may not have yet reached our ears.
4. Over the years, our usual seasonal pattern shows a slowdown in giving as the summer approaches. Your church is experiencing this slowdown right now. Please accept this **encouragement** to stay as regular as possible in your giving throughout these months as First Church continues ministry throughout Covid-19, social strife and whatever other challenges come our way.

Even though you are socially distanced, God keeps you close to his heart...many blessings!

**Electronic Giving Address:** [www.fumctr.com/donate](http://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

**For the Most Recent Updates::** [www.fumctr.com](http://www.fumctr.com)  
-click the update button and scroll down

Love you a lot,  
*Pastor Ed*  
[ed@fumctr.com](mailto:ed@fumctr.com)  
(c) 609-617-5182