

Dear First Church,

This Sunday is Father's Day, when we celebrate our dads and all those who have been important in our upbringing. In these unimaginable times, I encourage you to rest in God's care and care for others with God's love. "...we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again..." ~| uke 15:32

Here's your weekly update ...

1. Our **Church Council will meet tonight (via Zoom) at 6:30pm to discuss a re-opening plan.** This meeting, as well as next week's, will establish a practical policy for re-opening the facilities for public worship. More may be needed. These meetings will assist us in preparing for the process, so that whenever it is safe to open, we will be ready. The Church Council will not be setting a re-opening date.

2. Next week's UPDATE will be emailed on Wednesday, 6/24. This will allow me to update you on the Church Council meeting highlights from the two meetings.

3. We need you to update us on any pressing needs in our congregation. Please be sure to 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. You know, even in the midst of a pandemic, our response to God should be one of joy. God has found us, healed us and sustains us. As we know, God is good, all the time! I think our stewardship should be a joyful response as well. Once we recognize God's goodness, it's important to spend some time listening for the way, or ways, in which God is calling us to respond. So, as you clean out your attic for the third time in 3 months, or wash the car again, or try that new bread recipe for the 20<sup>th</sup> time (this time you'll get it right!), make sure you spend some time listening for God's leading in your giving. First Church keeps changing lives and needs you to make it happen. Thank you for listening to the God who loves us!

I love you, **Pastor Ed** <u>ed@fumctr.com</u> (c) 609-617-5182 Electronic Giving Address: <u>www.fumctr.com/donate</u>

**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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