



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**June 30, 2020 – Office Hours 10-12:30 M-F (Closed Thursday)**

Dear First Church,

Persistence is amazing isn't it? The persistence of water carved out the Grand Canyon and the persistence of NASA put people on the moon. The gift of persistence is a key ingredient in an effective life. So, I encourage you, in these unprecedented times to practice persistence in your faith – the world needs you to point the way to Jesus!

“ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly...”  
~Luke 18:7-8

Here's your weekly update...

1. Due to the numerous safety concerns connected with public gatherings and the Governor's executive order limiting group sizes (which would require us to take reservations and thus, turn people away from worship ☹) the facilities of First Church will *remain closed through the month of July*. Please remember that our facilities are closed for public gatherings --- however, our church has NEVER been closed. We are still doing ministry, preaching the word, bringing comfort and helping the struggling. The 2020 version just looks a little different!
2. Please note that the church office schedule has been adjusted - the office will now be **closed on Thursdays** (it is open on Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri from 10-12:30pm)
3. The church council approved re-opening plan for public worship is posted online. Even though we do not have a re-opening date, please look at the policy and prepare for a new way to gather, so when we do re-open you will be prepared.
4. Please continue to forward our videos to everyone you know. We are ministering to many persons who have not previously had a connection to First Church. This is a great blessing. So, press “forward” and make the blessing ever greater! Thank you for letting us know about those from our church to family in need. Pastor Wes and I are happy to follow up with any information you pass onto us!
5. I want to close this update by simply saying, “Thank you.” Your faithful giving to this ministry contributes the long standing success of our community of faith. Because of your commitment to the ministry of this congregation, we are an ever increasing effective witness to Jesus Christ. Covid-19 has changed things for sure, however, many still receive help with their utilities, rent and groceries. Untold numbers of persons from the community have received phone counseling through this challenging time and people are still coming to know the Lord! This congregation is grateful for you, and for the example you set for each of us on what it means to be a faithful steward. Many blessings as we minister safely among the community.

I love you,

*Pastor Ed*

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

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ATTN: Financial Secretary, First UMC

129 Chestnut Street, Toms River, NJ 08753

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