



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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July 14, 2020 – Office Hours 10-12:30 M-F (Closed Thursday)

Dear First Church,

This Covid-19 situation is like a tennis match. The virus serves the ball to us in March. Then we return it with our “social-distancing” rackets in the Spring and because of that great shot we thought we won the contest. But then, C-19 uses a great backhand return to score another point and make it even. Grrr. Will this match ever end? Jesus tells us that in the midst of these challenges he is still with us. The road may be hard or frustrating, but he is the same yesterday, today and forever. He will carry us through...Promise!

Here's your weekly update...

“..knock and the door
will be opened
to you.”
~Luke 11:9
☺

1. I have been in regular contact with our Greater New Jersey Conference and most of our 450+ church facilities have not opened for public worship as of this writing. We continue to monitor the situation and keep in touch with our sister churches who find themselves in similar situations. Our worship re-opening policy is posted on our website (fumctr.com). Even though we do not have an opening date, please review the policy so that we can all be well-prepared when the time to open public worship arrives. Remember, First Church IS NOT CLOSED! We are simply doing ministry in a different way in the midst of a crisis. Thank you for your patience and your prayers.

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). Thursday is the day when we tape the videos for Sunday. The more people there are in the building on Thursdays, the more difficult it is to shoot the video.

3. Thank you for always letting us know about those from our church family in need. Pastor Wes and I are happy to follow up with any information you pass onto us!

4. Thank you so very much for your faithful support over these last months. As you might expect, our giving is down from last year but God is making a way for ministry and he is using you! I am so grateful for the faithfulness of God's people!! That being said, we find ourselves in the middle of July, when sometimes our focus on the busyness of summer distracts us from church life. So, please continue to regularly give your offerings, tithes and, if the Lord is leading you, other special gifts to the ministry of your church family. We can make it through this crisis if we continue to be committed to Jesus and his church!

I love you,

Pastor Ed

ed@fumctr.com

(c) 609-617-5182

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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