



First United Methodist Church

135 West Simpson Street
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055
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www.fumchurch.com
office@fumchurch.com

March 17, 2020

Dear First Church Family,

"O God, for another day, for another morning, for another hour, for another minute, for another chance to live and serve Thee, I am truly grateful." (Wallace Fridy)

In view of the developing news surrounding the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus and statements from President Donald Trump and PA Governor Tom Wolf, an announcement was issued today by Bishop Jeremiah Park. He is asking our Susquehanna Conference churches to suspend all gatherings for worship and other activities for at least the next two weeks. Following his guidance, First Church will remain closed through Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

As Bishop Park stated in today's email message, "This is a very hard decision, especially because we are in the midst of Lent, one of the most sacred seasons of the church year. However, during the time of suspension we can be more intentional and be focused on the Lenten disciplines of solitude, reflection, and repentance. This season can help us deepen our spiritual connection to Holy Week and ultimately Easter when we celebrate new life." (You may access his entire letter at www.susumc.org)

Once again, as we did last Sunday, we will video record worship services for Sunday, March 22 and for next Sunday, March 29. They will be posted on our website and Facebook page. We are so grateful for your wonderful response to last Sunday's service and we encourage you to access the recording and worship this Sunday morning in your homes.

While the church building will be closed, including the office, our pastors and staff will access and respond to email and phone messages on a daily basis. We will likewise pick-up mail and packages that come to the church during this time.

Although we are not meeting at the church building for services and activities, the ministry of our church continues. Please remember to continue your offerings. Many of you already give electronically and we receive your gifts on a regular basis. For others, you may mail your offering to the church or give on-line through our church website. If you would like to sign-up for electronic giving, our Office Manager, Ellen Hill, will be glad to assist you. Please contact her at office@fumchurch.com.

On our church website, we will provide resources and opportunities for your spiritual growth during this time. We are also committed to staying connected with you. We will provide regular updates via email and our website and also continue our weekly prayer letter. Please contact the church if we can assist you in any way. *(continued on next page)*

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors



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I encourage you practice "social distancing," so that you and your dear ones can remain healthy. I also invite you to join with our pastors and staff in prayer that the spread of the virus will be quickly contained and those who have contracted the virus will return to health and strength. Pray also for our leaders in government, business, education, and churches, and for all of those dedicated medical and community servants who are responding amid this crisis.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Denny