



First United Methodist Church

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April 1, 2020

Dear First Church Family,

"Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever!" (Psalm 118:1)

We are practicing "social distancing," but by God's grace the ministry of First Church continues. Growing numbers of households are participating in worship online. Sunday school classes, Bible study and other small groups are meeting using ZOOM. You are praying, reaching out with care, and giving to support the work of the church. The church has had to leave the building, but you are still being the church together!

As you may know, PA Governor Tom Wolf has now issued a "stay at home" order for our area. In compliance with this order, we have decided to suspend all physical gatherings and activities until at least April 30, 2020. Although we can't meet physically, we look forward to continuing our online services while also including a few special online services during Holy Week. You may access our worship services on Palm Sunday, April 5, and Easter, April 12, via the video recordings posted on our website at www.fumchurch.com. This is a great time to invite others to worship with us!

On Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m. we will celebrate an ancient Christian tradition of a Love Feast, or Agape Meal. A Love Feast is an informal time of worship. It is especially appropriate for times such as this, when a pastor is not able to be physically present for The Lord's Supper. There is Scripture and prayer, a time of personal witness, and the sharing of food. Typically, the meal will include a loaf of bread or crackers or sweet rolls, and water or other beverages such as lemonade, tea, or coffee. We invite you to prepare for this simple meal ahead of time, then join online to share worship and food in an atmosphere of Christian love and fellowship.

On Good Friday, even though we cannot be physically together for a Prayer Walk this year, we invite you to join with churches throughout Mechanicsburg between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as we hold our community in prayer. More information about all of our services and activities, including a special activity for children and families since we have had to cancel the Passion Play this year, can be found on the church's website at www.fumchurch.com.

We also welcome your prayer requests. Please send these requests to our Director of Congregational Care, Janice Bowen, at wecare@fumchurch.com. In addition, we encourage you to continue your financial support of the church by mailing your offerings to the church, giving online through our website, or giving electronically. Our Office Manager, Ellen Hill, will be glad to assist you. You may contact her at office@fumchurch.com.

Please join as a church family in prayer for the sick and the dying and their families, for those on the front lines offering medical care and other services, for our elected officials and business and community leaders, and for the witness of the church. We find ourselves in circumstances we never imagined experiencing, but we still embrace the good news that God's faithful love lasts forever!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Denny

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors