



First United Methodist Church

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August 19, 2020

Dear First Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing to keep you informed as we continue in our life and ministry together.

- Since Sunday, July 26, at 8:30 a.m. we have been gathering for worship in the sanctuary and broadcasting the service live! **Thank you** to those who have worshiped in person, following the guidelines for everyone's health and safety plan. **Thank you** to those who have continued to worship online, both live and via the recording. **Thank you** to the dedicated teams of greeters and ushers, worship leaders, and those involved with sound, visuals, recording and posting our services. **Our first four weeks in-person and online together have been very successful!**
- Over the next few weeks, as we continue to monitor attendance and the case numbers in our area, **we plan to continue with one service at 8:30 a.m.** You are welcome to worship in-person at the church, or worship online, either live at 8:30 or via the recording afterward. Please visit our church website, www.fumchurch.com for details.
- For those planning to attend in person, we ask that you **pre-register by Thursday of each week** on the church website. This will greatly assist our staff and hospitality team as we prepare to welcome you.
- Looking ahead, our staff and Re-Gathering Task Force is **prayerfully considering the next steps for worship and other church programs.** We are looking toward offering an additional worship service. Sunday School classes and other ministries will continue to be offered either online or outside (while the weather is still nice) in September, with new in-person offerings added later in the fall.
- **Little Friends Preschool** plans to begin a new school year on Monday, September 14. Our LFPS Board has developed extensive guidelines to ensure the health and safety of our children, teachers, and staff. We are all working closely together to provide a safe environment for this important outreach to our community.
- With Sunday worship and the opening of Little Friends, we are taking first steps toward re-gathering in our building. However, for now, **our building will remain closed** to other groups and activities. Our pastors and staff are still available, as always, either by phone or email. If you need access to the building during the week, please email or call our Office Manager, Ellen Hill at office@fumchurch.com or (717) 766-4611.
- Given the uncertainty of the times in which we live, we will continue planning one step at a time, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. **We will keep you informed** about what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how you can be involved.
- This past Sunday, as we continued our series on Romans 8, we focused on a favorite verse, Romans 8:28, **We know that God works all things together for good for the ones that love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.** My heart is filled with thanksgiving as I consider God's good work in and through you! Even in this most challenging time, by God's grace, First Church is still alive and active!
- Thank you for **your faithful witness in our community** as together we continue to worship and study, serve and give.

I am so very grateful for you!

Pastor Denny

Opening Doors with Christ, One Another and Our Neighbors