

FUMC Church News

Good Afternoon, Friends:

As we enter into the second full week of the COVID-19 situation, we are now living with the reality of the state being completely shut down as ordered by Governor Murphy on Saturday. As a result, all persons are strongly encouraged to stay at home, especially if they are in vulnerable categories due to advanced age or existing health issues. No one should engage in non-essential travel at this time.

The staff at First Church will be having a virtual ZOOM meeting tomorrow to plan for the next few weeks. That will include virtual worship on Sundays at 9:30 AM that will no longer be live streamed, but will be pre-recorded and released at that time. That should alleviate some of the technical glitches that a few of you have encountered. We are also looking toward Holy Week and Easter and what that might look like.

In addition, my occasional messages that I've been offering which include updates and an ad hoc reading through the Gospel of John will continue on Facebook. As I noted last week on one of those messages, church volunteers have placed boxes outside the Pleasant Valley entrance and the Camden Ave. entrance to the church for the collection of non-perishable items for the food pantry we support in Moorestown. Those will be collected every night and delivered on a timely basis. Please consider making a donation if you are in the area.

Finally, as you can imagine, the church has taken a huge financial hit as a result of our not being able to hold worship services. I want to thank those who have kept sending their pledges in regardless of our being "shut down." I hope to have some firm numbers to share with you in the near future, but the shortfall will likely be significant. I know that these are uncertain times, so the continuing support of everyone to the mission and ministry of our church is greatly appreciated!

Grace, Peace & Stay Safe!

Pastor Tom

P.S. Please remember to check on your neighbors and friends – particularly those in those vulnerable categories!