

# The Messenger

April 2020

*First United Methodist Church*

*446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057*

*856-235-0450 [www.meetwithGod.com](http://www.meetwithGod.com)*



We look forward to worshipping with you again:

Saturday, 5:30 pm | Sunday, 8:30 am | Sunday, 9:30 am | Sunday, 11 am



## ***A NOTE TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY***

**All church events, including worship services, are canceled until further notice. During this time, the church office will be closed, but staff will continue to check voicemail and email.**

**Throughout the closure, we will be posting a weekly abbreviated service on Facebook and YouTube (search FUMC Moorestown). Online services will also be available for Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Stay connected, stay in prayer, and stay safe!**

Rev. Tom Korkuch, Pastor  
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth  
Norm Dorrell, Co-Music Leader  
Devika Gill, Director of First Light

Rev. HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor  
Donna Banes, Co-Music Leader  
Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator



# ***From Pastor Tom***

*Note from the Pastor...*

I wrote this message weeks prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 situation in our country. Initially, I was thinking about either updating it or scrapping it altogether in favor of a message that spoke to the current context that we find ourselves in. But then, after again reading what I wrote, I suspect that God may have had a hand in guiding my theme. So, I invite you to read the following message through the lens of the current challenges that we are experiencing. I look forward to continuing to provide occasional messages on Facebook, as well as virtual worship opportunities on both Facebook and YouTube on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. If you would like to tune in, search “FUMC Moorestown.”

Grace, Peace, and Good Vibrations!

## ***For All the Days that End in ‘Why?’***

*But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’*

- John 20:11-15a

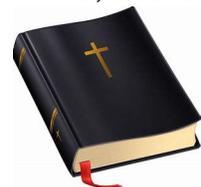
As I sit behind my laptop with the sound of cars driving by on this cool, rainy day in Moorestown, it occurs to me that in order to get to spring, days like today must first be allowed to pass. The rains of this time of the year are necessary for new life to burst out once the equinox passes and the darkness of winter gives way to new light and life. And life in general is like that, isn't it? Rain falls in everybody's life – sometimes at the most inopportune times. It's inevitable. One of the best commercials that our United Methodist denomination ran many years ago featured a person lost in thought as she stares out a window dotted with raindrops. It was obvious from the expression on her face that she was a bit troubled by something. Then the tag line said it all: “For all the days that end in *why*.”

If you're having a day, a month, or even a year when it seems like all you're doing is staring out onto rainy days and asking “why,” it's important to keep in mind that it will not always be raining. The clouds will pass and the bright sunshine will return. Spring will follow winter. Easter will follow Good Friday. It's hard to see that sometimes, which is why we call it “faith.” As the author of Hebrews puts it, “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen,*” and that reminds me of what Jesus says to Thomas in John's gospel: “*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.*”

Sometimes, we can't see past the pain of our rainy days, just as the disciples couldn't see past the pain of the cross on Good Friday. And yet, somewhere deep in our being we yearn to know that all will be well in the end. That's the message of Easter. It's the assurance of what we hope for, the conviction of what we cannot yet see – that God will raise us up just as God raised Jesus.

As you journey with Jesus through these final days of Lent, may you know that the cross is not the final word. The final word comes with the empty tomb and God's promise of new life, abundant life, resurrection life!

Easter Blessings!



# Music Notes

I recently came across the following article *Music as Prayer*. I thought I would share it with you.

*“How can you pray while you are singing?” I think the answer lies in the intent of the person singing. Praying through song can be an extremely powerful form of prayer. But like any form of prayer, it takes practice. If a person is focused on the scripture, prayer-text or church doctrine the text of a song expresses, then the person begins to internalize the message, God’s message, and meditate on the meanings behind the words...the import of the prayer. They open themselves to God’s Spirit moving in the music and in their being. Music is one of the few documented activities that engage both sides of your brain simultaneously, so when we pray through music we are literally “giving it our all.”*

*We live in a time when music is seen as a form of entertainment. Our ears are bombarded with music in our cars, on television, in stores...even in elevators. We have become almost disenfranchised by music. We are trained to only listen to the music and not be actively involved in the music. Yet, through history, this is not the norm. In ancient times, prayer was always sung...and still is in many parts of the world. If someone were to go to a Jewish Temple, first they would notice how much of our liturgy grew out of Jesus’ faith-tradition, but then they would notice how much of the liturgy is sung. And most of that music is communal in some form. Not only are you sending*

*your prayers to God, you are doing so WITH your community. “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I.” (Matthew 18:20)*

*The tradition of liturgical music in the church started with chant. But as time has evolved, so has our music. Throughout the last 800 years, more and more modern music has been incorporated into our liturgies and our prayers. Remember, God gave you the voice, he already knows what it sounds like...he just wants you to give it back to him...in prayer and praise.*

As our music transitions from Lent to Easter, may the hymns and choruses we sing be a prayer lifted up in praise and thanksgiving!

Donna Banes

Co-Music Leader



**The life of the church depends on your giving. While the church is closed, our ministry must continue. Please consider electronic giving.**

SHARING  
GOD'S  
GIFTS

## ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION

If you would like to use your mobile device to make an electronic donation to FUMC Moorestown, just scan this QR code and you'll be connected to our mobile giving page!



## ***WORK DAY At Ranch Hope***

**Sponsored By Our Missions Committee**

**When: Saturday **May 9<sup>th</sup>** from **9AM – 3PM****

**Where: Ranch Hope, Alloway, NJ**

***Free Transportation provided***

**Sign-up on bulletin board in Church Narthex**

***- Space limited to first 12 people***

***- Those who volunteer will be blessed***



**Contact Allan Estrin for questions**

**Ranch Hope Fact:**

**90% of families say their at-risk youth  
have benefited from the services provided  
by Ranch Hope**



**Ranch Hope's Mission: To foster environments that transform lives empowered through Christ-centered love and compassion to youth whom had adverse childhood experiences**