

The Messenger

May 2020

First United Methodist Church

446 Camden Avenue, Moorestown, NJ 08057

856-235-0450 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



FOR I KNOW THE
plans I have for you
DECLARES THE LORD

plans to prosper you
AND NOT TO HARM YOU

PLANS TO GIVE YOU
hope and a future
JEREMIAH 29:11

Worship With Us Virtually!

While we cannot meet together for worship in person at this time, remember that we are still worshipping virtually! Weekly “worship movies”, including sermon, scripture, prayer, and music are posted on the church’s Facebook and YouTube pages. You can watch when they are posted at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, or at any time afterwards. And don’t forget to look for Pastor Tom’s video messages, posted most week-day mornings!

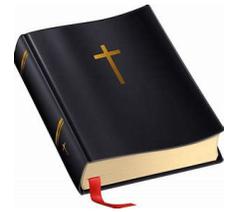
Rev. Tom Korkuch, Pastor
Kathy Clawges, Director of Youth
Norm Dorrell, Co-Music Leader
Devika Gill, Director of First Light

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



From Pastor Tom

“Social Distancing?”



Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your son will live.’ The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive.- John 4:50-51

There are at least three occasions when scripture tells us that Jesus healed from a distance. Apparently, he didn’t need to be physically present with the people who were in dire need.

As I am writing this article, we are expecting the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic to be arriving any day now. As a matter of fact, some are suggesting that we are in the peak right at this moment – but it is difficult to be certain. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, we are on the downside and there has already been discussion of a partial return to normalcy. I say “partial return” because I am still not clear if a “full return” to normalcy is even possible – at least not in the immediate future.

We have all become very familiar with the term “social distancing” over the past month and a half or so. This is the requirement that we not come within six feet of one another so as to avoid the spread of the coronavirus as much as possible. And yet, I believe the term social distancing to be a bit of a misnomer. Social distancing is likely not the right term we should be using because it suggests that we should be completely isolating ourselves from one another, not unlike being in solitary confinement. While it is true that we need to remain at least six feet apart at all times, that is more accurately described as “physical distancing,” not “social distancing.” As human beings, we are defined by our capacity to be “social” with one another. In other words, we need human interaction – and while that can’t happen in face-to-face encounters right now, it can nevertheless happen in other ways.

One of the bright spots of my endless days sitting behind a computer screen is when I have a chance to go outside for a walk or a run. Unlike pre-Covid-19 days, what I find now is people and families out and about, maintaining safe distances from one another for sure, but also smiling, chatting, and otherwise socially interacting with one another. It’s a refreshing change from what had been the case before. But isn’t that what happens when crises come along? People come together, recognizing their common humanity and embracing the fact that, in the end, we’re all in this together.

I believe that’s what we were created to be – socially interactive. And while the definition of that has changed in 2020, and we need to be practicing physical distancing, we nevertheless should not be socially distancing ourselves to the point that we completely shut ourselves off from the rest of the world. After all, when it came to interacting with people, there were times when Jesus did so from a distance – and yet, they still received a blessing!

Grace, Peace & Stay Safe!

Pastor Tom

Member Notes



*Luke Robert Deffley
son of Andrew Deffley & Deborah Ubele
March 22, 2020*



*Kerry Swezey & James Blizard
on March 29, 2020*

FROM YOUR MISSIONS COMMISSION:

The May 9th Work Day at Ranch Hope in Alloway, NJ has been postponed indefinitely. Please continue to pray for this ministry in support of teenage boys and girls.

Please remember our missionaries in your prayers during this difficult time. Pray for their continued good health and that the fear being experienced by so many of the people they are serving will be met with the overwhelming grace of God. And, please do not forget to support those missionaries financially through your Faith Promise giving. Thank you!!



"Can" You Help?

If you are able, please remember those who will not have enough to eat as work-place shutdowns continue and our neighbors go without paychecks. Church volunteers have placed boxes outside the Pleasant Valley and Camden Ave. entrances for the collection of non-perishable items for the town food pantries. Donations will be collected every night and delivered in a timely manner.

Church Building Remains Closed

During the ongoing shut-downs as ordered by the governor of NJ, the church building is closed except for essential business. Please **do not** enter the church building for any non-essential reasons. Thank you for your cooperation at this difficult time.

Prayer Support

A collaboration from Prayer Committee Volunteers
Submitted by Nancy Jerrell, Prayer Coordinator



God, grant me the Serenity To accept the things I cannot change...
Courage to change the things I can,
And Wisdom to know the difference.

We may recognize those four comforting lines as what's commonly called "The Serenity Prayer." But did you know that—as wise as it is—it is only one third of the inspiration to be found in this prayer? The most well known lines of the Serenity Prayer are only a portion of the full prayer, written by theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. The rest of the full version is:

Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it.
Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will.
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.



During times that we feel insecure, the rest of the prayer reminds us to live in the moment. We can then find those things still worth enjoying! Happiness in this life comes from trusting God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (NIV Psalm 46:10)

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!

