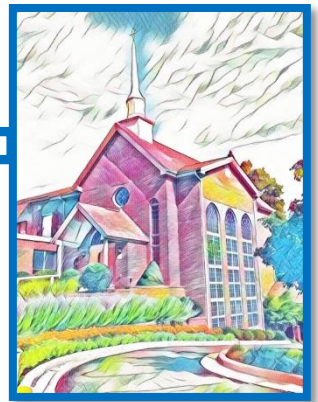


Mason First United Methodist Church

201 E. Ash Street, Mason, MI 48854
(517) 676-9449



Dear Friends,

You may have already received a letter from me regarding the church's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you haven't – you probably will receive it Monday. As I'm sure you know, this is a fluid situation with new information coming in constantly. This afternoon, the United Methodist Church, together with most mainline denominations, made the hard decision to suspend all programming and worship until at least Palm Sunday (April 5).

Therefore, First United Methodist Church will not be open for programs or worship until (tentatively) Palm Sunday - April 5. During this time, the building – including the church office – will be closed. We will be doing a deep cleaning, and we will maintain the business of the church, but the doors will be locked.

The Daycare will continue to operate unless advised differently by the Governor or the CDC. At this time we are in compliance with all protocols of safety for the children and daycare workers.

In the meantime, we invite you to reach out to one another in new ways of Christian fellowship.

- **I encourage you to call at least three people every day!** Call a church friend. Call someone from the church that you don't know very well. And call someone who is not from the church. Ask them how they're doing, and if you can be in prayer for them. Share a message of hope. Ask them about their plans for spring or what fun thing they're going to do once this crisis is over.
- **If you are able to help others, here are some ways you can help!**
 - Offer to pick up groceries, or take a meal to someone who can't get out.
 - Our Tiny Pantry is in constant need of re-supply during this time. Anything you can drop off will be used immediately.
 - Offer to do errands or drive someone somewhere if they need help.
- **I encourage you to engage in an act of worship every day.** Say a prayer, read a devotion, pick a scripture passage and practice lectio divina, sing your favorite hymn. I'll be sending you some specific suggestions to help you. But remember that God is with us, and God has a plan for us. Please don't neglect your spiritual well-being!
- **Continue to be generous as you are able.** Even though we will not be meeting, the church and the ministries we support depend on our faithful giving. If you are able to continue your offerings, they are still so very important! Please consider giving by EFT or by mailing your pledge. In that way we can continue to pay our bills, pay our staff, and respond to the desperate needs which will surely be a result of this time.

Most of all, remember that God calls us to be the church – a beacon of hope and faithfulness even and especially in trying times. We have been blessed to be a blessing. In the days to come we will be exploring ways to provide worship through social media. And we will be reaching out with updated information.

Stay tuned. Stay safe. Stay faithful. And may God's grace and peace be with you.

Pastor Suzanne