

Dear Sisters and Brothers of First UMC Hershey,

In light of the ever-changing world health crisis and national emergency due to Coronavirus, we have sadly made some difficult decisions. First United Methodist Church doors have been closed and all activities, groups, and scheduled events are now cancelled through March 31. We will continue to evaluate things as the situation progresses. Please know, it is only the doors of our church building, not the doors of our hearts, which are closed.

The staff met together this morning to discuss how we will continue to reach out to you.

First, starting this Sunday, March 22, and continuing on following Sundays, I will share the message for the day from God's Word. For this week, our time of "gathering" will be in the form of a recorded YouTube video. You will access this through a link that will be sent to your email Sunday morning. The link will also be posted on our web site and to our Facebook group—First United Methodist Church of Hershey. While this week's video will be recorded instead of live, we encourage our congregation to begin watching as close to 10am as possible for a sense of virtual gathering and participation together. Both the email and post to the Facebook group with the link will be made available at 9:30am so that you can begin watching by 10am.

Secondly, staff will be reaching out in creative ways to stay in touch, encourage, and enable spiritual enrichment through...phone calls, Facebook group interactive posts and live videos, Zoom video conferencing for various ministries and groups, and other ways to be determined.

Thirdly, the staff and I will continue to discuss ways we can improve and expand our ministries to you during these uncharted days. Please watch for more updates by reading your weekly Rapid Pulse e-mails, following our Facebook group, or checking our church web site.

The staff will continue working remotely and will be checking messages

Be assured Pastor Chuck and Congregational Care Associate, Beth Valentine, will always be available for emergencies. Pastor Chuck: 717-641-3781; Beth Valentine: 717-350-9251.

Bishop Jeremiah Park reminds us that even in the midst of this pandemic, we can be assured that God is our present help and that God in Jesus Christ is faithful. May we know the embrace of the Holy Spirit's presence, wisdom and peace as we participate in a deliverance for health and wholeness.

Holding you in prayer,

Pastor Chuck

