



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WINTER PARK

March 25, 2020

Dear Church Family Member,

These are difficult times. There is much stress and the uncertainty over the Covid-19 pandemic. Every one of us is struggling to cope with a different way of life. One with greater and greater isolation. Which is exactly why being the church matters more than ever! By church I don't mean the building. Or a few members. I mean all of us in the body of Christ! The world needs the hope and the peace that you have in Christ. Our neighbors need the care and concern you are sharing! Thank you for all that you are doing to usher in the presence of God's Shalom!

I would love to tell you that things will return to business as usual. But I believe that life will be different on the other side of this experience. Our way of living life together will be changed. We see this in worship. We see this in family ministry. We see this in the need for new ways of connecting. Our work is to find a way that is better than ever before!

Over the next few weeks, our church leaders will be focused on three things:

- First, we will reevaluate our priorities. Our work will be to envision who we need to become as a church and not just seek to return to what was.
- Second, we will be building upon the great start we have had in worshipping through an on-line platform. We will be especially focused on how to build connection outside of the on-line worship services. Particularly when it comes to children.
- Finally, our leaders will be assessing our staffing resources in light of our reduced income.

Please help! As a church family we need your participation.

- One important way is to double your efforts to connect with other church family members. Each week when you came physically to worship you talked to a dozen others. How can you continue those conversations?
- A second way is to investigate all that our church family is offering. You can do this through our web page – *Finding Hope Together*. Here is the link - <https://fumcwp.org/findinghopetogether/>
- Another critical way to help ensure the future of our church family is to continue your financial support. It is needed now more than ever. Reduced income means reduced ministries. Thank you for all that you are doing to help our church family move forward!

It strikes me that our church has been around for over 130 years. Through two World Wars. Through the Spanish Flu pandemic that killed hundreds and hundreds of thousands. Through the Great Depression and the Great Recession. And yet, the Body of Christ overcame! We know that the church will be around to the end of time! We can do this! Please join us in helping your church overcome!

I will be praying for you and yours. And I will be looking for the day when I can see you in person!

Peace,
Pastor David

125 N. Interlachen Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789
407.644.2906 • www.fumcwp.org

*A vibrant family built on God's grace, who share a passion for the Word of God,
living and serving in the image of Jesus the Christ.*