

# First United Methodist Church

66 Harrison Avenue

Franklin NC 28734

828.524.3010

[www.firstumcfranklin.org](http://www.firstumcfranklin.org)

April 6, 2020

Dear FUMC Family,

It is our sincere prayer that this letter finds you and your immediate family healthy and safe. May the power of Christ give you strength to face these days while we are physically apart yet remaining together in spirit, love, and prayer.

First, as members of the First United Methodist Church family, we are extremely grateful to our pastors and church staff for their care over the past few weeks as together we navigate this time of uncertainty and crisis. Their messages of hope and love through their calls and prayers for each of us have provided comfort and an authentic, meaningful touch that we all desperately crave. We are blessed with extraordinary and compassionate pastors and staff, and we are truly appreciative. Please reach out to extend your thanks as you are able; they need us as much as we need them.

Clearly, First United Methodist Church has been impacted in the way we serve our members and community at large. Little did we know in January at our Visioning 2020 retreat that our commitment to DARE MORE would likely need to be adjusted to DARE BEYOND MORE!

However, in true plucky FUMC Franklin fashion, and in addition to our pastoral leadership, Ministry Chairs and leaders within the church have stepped up to the unprecedented challenges we face and continue to DARE MORE to serve Christ in new and original ways. Rest assured, our mission and ministry continue even during these challenging times; to remain healthy and safe, Church Council and many ministries are meeting virtually using online computer tools, telephone, and by email. Below is a list of recent accomplishments and announcements regarding our NOW (Nurture, Operations, Witness) ministries:

- **Church Council:** Endowment and planned giving committee established
- **Finance:** Budget stable with online giving taking place (thank you!)
- **Education:** Some Sunday School classes and Bible studies using technologies such as Zoom and Google Meet
- **Missions:** Bazaar item collection on hold for now, decision to be made regarding date/time of Bazaar in early May
- **Communications:** Coordination of tools to keep us all connected (please see insert)
- **Youth:** Meeting via Zoom, service at volunteer events
- **Worship:** Holy Week worship services planned (please see back of this page)

**Palm Sunday - April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am / Facebook Live (recorded live video is posted)**

*Remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem being hailed as King! Go outside to find a branch, of any kind, and place it in a front window to represent Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.*

**Maundy Thursday - April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 pm / Facebook Live and Zoom**

*Celebrate the Tenebrae portion of our regular remembrance including the reading of the Scripture passages relating to Jesus' last hours before his arrest and special music.*

**Good Friday - April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**12:00 noon / Facebook Live and Zoom**

*Join with the community pastors sharing the Last Words of Jesus and special musical offerings.*

**Easter Sunday - April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 am – Sunrise service**

*Join the pastors of First UMC, First Presbyterian, All Saints Episcopal and First Baptist churches sharing Scripture, prayer and celebrations from the First UMC cemetery as we welcome the sunrise and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!*

**9:00 am – Holy Communion**

*Celebrate Easter through Word, song, and the Lord's Supper! We ask that you prepare your own elements (juice and bread) ahead of the service so that at the appointed time we might offer the Great Thanksgiving, Jesus' words of institution and the epiclesis (invocation of the Holy Spirit upon the elements), and receive the sacrament together. At noon, let's join in the celebrations and song by blowing our car horns so that the world might hear us celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and hope of the world, Jesus Christ!*

As we celebrate Holy Week in our homes, let us all remember and give thanks and praise to God! With His apparent death, it would have been natural to feel separated and defeated. But He rose, death was itself defeated, and nothing can separate us from the overwhelming love of Christ. It was thus then, as it is now, and evermore shall be.

Using God's blessings and our unique spiritual gifts, we each have opportunities to reach out NOW to DARE MORE and reach BEYOND our comfort zones to explore ways to stay connected to our church family and serve our neighbors. At minimum, we each can bear witness to the Gospel of the Good News of Christ by praying, sharing uplifting messages, and taking care of ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually.

You are a blessing to us and our church family, and we pray for you. If you have any needs, please contact the church office at (828) 524-3010 and leave a message, or you can email [secretary@firstumcfranklin.org](mailto:secretary@firstumcfranklin.org). Someone will return your call or email as soon as possible.

In Christ,

Dean Player  
Chair, Church Council

Fred Jones  
Lay Leader