

First UMC Starke News

Church Updates on COVID-19 / Coronavirus

Update #3 – Friday, April 3, 2020

CHURCH AT HOME Continues This Sunday With Communion!

We are so excited to meet with you again this week online at 10AM. We have been praying for you and your family. Tune in weekly each Sunday for a message from Pastor Mike Moore that will strengthen your faith. The title of this week's message is "If God Really Loves Us, Why Do We Die?"

Bishop Carter of the Florida Conference is allowing churches in this unique season to do Communion virtually over the internet. This Sunday, April 5th during our CHURCH AT HOME online service you will have the opportunity to participate with us. To participate you will need grape juice and some bread. The Communion Liturgy is attached to the bottom of this letter and can also be found on our church website firstumc.cc.

Virtual Wednesday Night Dinner and Bible Study

What an awesome experience it was to share dinner and bible study with you this past Wednesday! We will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for our virtual dinner and bible study on Facebook Live with Pastor Mike.

A Message From Our SPRC Chairperson

Greetings Church Family,

I hope that this finds you all staying close to home and doing well in this unprecedented time of pandemic. This is truly historic, and it reminds me of the stories from my parents of WW II when the country was truly united and committed to the task of defeating a deadly and cruel enemy. Everyone had to endure hardship, shortages of essential goods, and most tragically the loss of family and friends.

Through times of trial, the local church has always stood firm in the face of trouble. We are reminded that the local church is the hope of the world and we are so blessed to have a church staff that continues to work hard through this adversity to remain connected to our congregation and community. As our staff remains committed to our church, we stand committed to them. Our Pastor and staff are in contact every day, working on future events

and the current needs of youth and children. Just yesterday, our Children's Director, Kim Mann, drove to the homes of each of our children to leave a bag of goodies and activities.

It would be very sad to put our dedicated staff in a difficult position because we didn't have the funds to make payroll.

We were so relieved to find that the offering from last week was generous and I want to thank each of you for your continuing financial dedication to our church. It is in difficult times like these that truly measure our commitment to God through the local church. Please don't let these trying times get in the way of your tithe and offering.

Personally, for years, I told myself that my work at the church was my offering, and financially I fell far short of what I was supposed to be giving. When I finally relented and started to give faithfully, I found that my financial circumstance didn't suffer but actually got easier. Somehow, somehow, God has always provided for what we need, and we realize that God has blessed our family beyond measure.

Matthew 6:21

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

It is so true that our hearts are often measured by our wallets and we all worry about finances. I would challenge each of you who have not already done so to take the leap of faith and give generously. Be ready to see how God will work for those who trust in His love and mercy.

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

For those of you who have access to the internet through your phone or computer, I would highly encourage you to set up a regular electronic contribution. It makes it so easy, especially in these times when getting to the post office might not be recommended. The church website firstumc.cc giving page is set up to help. If you need assistance, please let us know and we'll be happy to assist.

Thank you again for your faithfulness. Try to tune in to the worship messages on Sundays at 10:00 on your phone or computer through the church website or through Facebook. Even though we can't see each other as before in worship, please know your church is still here and loves you very much. I will close with words from our former District Superintendent Jay Therrell.

"You are God's Plan A, and there isn't a Plan B! I implore you to keep focused on Jesus and sharing Him in as many ways as possible and with as many people as possible. Know that as

you share Jesus that in good times and bad, He is always with you as He promises in Matthew 28:

“Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.”

Each of you are constantly in our hearts and prayers. May God bless you and keep you always.

All God’s Love, Bill McRae

Chairperson - Staff Parish Relations Committee

Ways To Give

- Online at firstumc.cc/giving
- A door slot is installed at church on the kitchen door that you can drop your checks in.
- You can also mail a check to FUMC - P. O. Box 157 Starke, FL 32091
- You can use the BILL PAY option through your financial institution.

Church Campus Still Temporarily Closed

For the health of our community and guidelines provided by the Bishop of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church as well as the CDC & government officials, all worship services, office hours and campus activities have been postponed until further notice. You can leave a voicemail with any needs at the church office (904) 964-6864 and we will follow up. As always, for ongoing church updates go to firstumc.cc.

Communion Liturgy

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind. To set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread gave to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, when the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said; "Drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you, drink it in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out you Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our savior Christ has taught us, let us pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Because there is one loaf, we, though we be many, are one body.

For we all partake of one loaf. The bread which we break, is it not a means of sharing in the body of Christ?

And the cup over which we give thanks, is it not a means of sharing in the outpoured blood of Christ?

Communion

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep you in everlasting life.

Thanks be to God!