



March 24, 2020

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, the church building is closed until further notice. Please email the office to communicate with us.

But ministry continues! Our livestream worship services will be broadcast this Sunday. Many teams and small groups continue to meet via video conference. And our phone call visitation ministry is bringing joy to many lonely people.

Stay safe and healthy during this unusual time and continue to pray for a quick end to the virus.

Rick LaDue
Lead Pastor
United Methodist Church of Webster



March 13, 2020

The coronavirus has impacted our state, country and the world. And now this week, it has arrived in our area. The Monroe County Department of Health has strongly recommended that any gathering of over 50 people be cancelled.

Therefore, we will forego our congregational gatherings at church for the next two weeks. However, because we enjoy the blessing of technology, **our worship services will continue online**.

Our regular worship services will be livestreamed this Sunday at their normal times. Go to our website www.umcwebster.org click on the Live Stream button in the top right corner of the page. For those who prefer Facebook, we will set up a Facebook Live event on our Facebook page [UMC of Webster](#) as well. For Webster residents, the service will also be broadcast on channel 1303 at 2:30 pm.

Other meetings in the church do not rise to the 50 person level, so they are not cancelled at this time, but you might want to check your emails before heading out. The conditions change daily, so we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you up-to-date on our response. If you are uncomfortable attending any of our other functions here, please feel free to stay home and we will respect your decision to do so.

Some additional reminders:

- if you are not feeling well, please do not leave your home
- if you are in a high-risk population, please stay home
- if you have a special need during this time, please contact the church office

We are a church that values fellowship and we will trust that we will be able to come together again soon. Until then, take comfort that God is with us. The Bible says, "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41: 10

In Christ,

Rick LaDue
Lead Pastor
United Methodist Church of Webster



March 17, 2020

Thanks to all of you who were able to worship with us remotely this past weekend. It was strange to see the sanctuary so empty on a Sunday morning, but it was a joy to continue to share prayer, music and God's Word with you.

As I continue to monitor the recommendations from a variety of local and national officials, I believe it is wise to remain online through the end of this month. That means that worship services on March 22 AND March 29 will only be available on Live Stream or Facebook.

I am still hopeful that we can resume our fellowship for Palm Sunday and Easter and ask you to join me in praying for a quick resolution to this pandemic.

As for other small groups, meetings and programs in the church, some have been cancelled and some groups will continue. All meetings are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis and so, if you have questions, please contact the church office. A reminder that if you are uncomfortable attending any of our functions here, please feel free to stay home and we will respect your decision to do so.

I mentioned on the livestream that when a crisis happens, the church has an opportunity to be a light in the darkness. With that in mind, our staff has decided to institute a church-wide phone call visitation program. We are asking you to help us reach out to the high-risk population in our church by joining us in calling our elderly and shut-ins and enjoying a meaningful conversation together. If you would like to participate in this ministry, simply call the office at 265-9720 and you will be given the name and number of someone to call.

I also mentioned on Sunday that our church has electronic giving options. We quickly discovered a glitch in the system and have since corrected it. If you would like to give to the church simply go to our website, <https://www.umcwebster.org/>, and click "Giving" in the top right of the page.

The Bible says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." (II Timothy 1:7) God is with us.

In Christ,

Rick LaDue
Lead Pastor
United Methodist Church of Webster