



*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation and healing of the world.*

**“For everything there is a season...”** -Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Wesley Church Family,

Out of an abundance of caution and care, your leadership and I have agreed that it is best to cancel all gatherings and events at Wesley until at least April 5<sup>th</sup>. While this includes in-person worship services on Sunday mornings, know that our services will be held on schedule through Facebook Live. Each Sunday morning at 10:30am you can hop online and worship with us! For those who aren't on Facebook, go online and create an account and join Wesley United Methodist Church. Also, know that the worship services will be made available later that day on our website: [www.gfwesley.org](http://www.gfwesley.org) (be sure to select the “Messages” tab).

A lot has changed in just a few days with regard to recommendations from the Center of Disease Control and the White House, but as of this letter, the latest news is that ALL gatherings of 10 or more should be postponed and cancelled for 8 weeks, which means the church may be closed until May 10<sup>th</sup>. As things seem to be quite fluid right now, Wesley Leadership plans to re-evaluate the situation on April 1<sup>st</sup> to determine when services and activities might resume at Wesley, including the possibility that the closure may need to extend beyond May 10<sup>th</sup>.

“Social distancing” is a relatively new term, but it is one that requires us all to be both intentional and mindful of boundaries. If you don't have to go anywhere, beyond grocery shopping and getting the essentials, it's recommended that you stay home. Now, that doesn't mean you can't go out and enjoy the weather if it's nice or do some grilling, but it still means breaking out the BBQ **and** inviting the neighbor may be a bit much. Last week I posted a notice on our Facebook page about how to stay informed, utilize best practices, and where to get good reliable information. This information will also be made available on our website and as a supplement to this letter.

Friends, I don't want to minimize the impact of social distancing as it pertains to mental health and the life of the church. Going without contact for days on end is less than ideal when you consider that we were created to be social creatures. Be sure to connect by phone or email with friends and family as often as you need and especially check on those whom you know struggle more than others. If you have the ability to do video chats through your phone or

computer, this is an opportunity to try it out. This can also be an opportunity to renew yourself, meditate, and reconnect with those who've you have been meaning to.

Also, if you're able to continue to support Wesley United Methodist Church, we encourage you to do so. Even though the daily rhythm of our church life is necessarily shifting, our work and presence continues. There are a few easy ways to continue your financial support:

- You may simply send in your check(s) by mail weekly.
- You may go online and create an account through Vanco and set it up for weekly contributions (using the "**Give**" tab on our website).
- If you have a smartphone, you have the option to text to give or use the Give+ mobile app by Vanco. You can find more information on our website.
  - Vanco's services are secure and use encryption for each transaction. (As a side note, I have personally been using Vanco's services to give to the churches I have served since 2012, so my recommendation of their services comes from experience.)

If you have any questions about how to give or set up accounts, please be sure to contact us at the office. Our **new office hours** will run throughout the week from **9am-1pm**, Monday through Thursday. Call ahead if there is something you may need at the office-to drop off or pick up so that we can coordinate and minimize physical contact.

And lastly, be sure to check our website or Facebook for future updates. You can also join our mobile **text updates** by texting: **@txtwesley** to: **81010**. In early April you will receive another update via your Wesley Newsletter. Be sure to share the information with others as you are able to ensure that folks are informed. Again, for any questions contact the office.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jeff Lathrop

Wesley United Methodist Church

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