

Dear Alcoa First United Methodist Church Family;

The leadership at AFUMC met tonight, Friday, March 13, 2020 to discuss the request from Bishop Taylor and the District Superintendents to cancel worship services for the next two Sundays in hopes of lessening the spread of the Coronavirus. The meeting began with Joy Garrett (Regional Infectious Disease Control Coordinator) and Don Heinemann (Chief Administrator at Blount Memorial Hospital) both brought the group up to date on vital information about the Coronavirus and why stopping group meetings for a short period of time might be helpful to our church members and community.

After much discussion, it was agreed that we will move to a service of live stream worship (SEE NOTE BELOW) for Sunday, March 15 and March 22. All events at AFUMC will be postponed and if possible rescheduled for later dates. In essence, the church will be closed for this short period of time.

The church office will not be open, so if you need help or information, please keep these numbers handy.

Johnny Walker – Church Business Administrator – Cell Number 865-582-6941
Rev. Todd Chancey – Pastor – Cell Number 423-290-3999

WHAT IS LIVE STREAM WORSHIP?

At 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, March 15th and March 22nd – we will go LIVE on FACEBOOK. If you have a FACEBOOK account, simply log on to FACEBOOK, pull up FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ALCOA, and watch the LIVE STREAM. It will be a normal worship service without the congregation. The service will include: Announcements, Music, Prayers, and a Sermon. We think this will be a great way to worship from home.

Remember, we are the people of God's church. We will trust God to lead us during this time of uncertainty and we look forward to being back together in worship soon.

During these next two weeks, we are asking all Sunday School Teachers (leaders) and all small group leaders, to please check on your group members.

Cancellations are happening all around our community and we need to do our part. It is never easy to move worship to LIVE STREAM only, but we think this is our best option.

Those of you who wish to participate financially, a link will be shared for electronic giving and checks can also be mailed to the church at 617 Gilbert St. Alcoa, TN 37701. We thank you for your continued generosity which assures we will meet the financial needs during this short time.

Isaiah 41:10 reads: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

The Good News of Jesus Christ has been shared for over 2,000 years in many, many ways and through many, many challenges. We will be the church and we will share the GOOD NEWS in our community.

We are also looking to develop some on-line Bible Studies; watch for more information via e-mail or social media.

Thank you all for your prayers, love and support and please call Johnny or me if you need any help.

Blessings, Pastor Todd