

First Things @ Alcoa March 17, 2020

Dear Alcoa First United Methodist Church Family;

During these uncertain times and the cancelations related to the Coronavirus the church is still active and we are still family through Christ Jesus. We may have to change the way we are doing things for a short period of time. A few days ago, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA. (CDC) suggested that no group over 50 people meet for the next 8 weeks. We are **NOT** sure how this will impact worship for the coming weeks. Here is what your staff at Alcoa First United Methodist Church is working on:

- All activities at the church are canceled until further notice. Once it is safe to meet again, we will get info to you about when things will start back up. We will be watching local schools and local officials for guidance.
- On Sundays, March 22nd and March 29th we will be WORSHIPPING via Facebook Live. We did this last Sunday and 1,500 plus people interacted with our worship service. Special thanks to Johnny Walker and Brooke Gunning for helping make it all work. OUR PRAISE BAND WAS AWESOME – thanks to our dedicated team in music ministry. NOTE: If you can join us at “FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ALCOA” Facebook page, please LIKE us and then watch the worship service. IF YOUR LINK FREEZES or LOCKS UP, please reconnect and you will once again see the worship service. Last week we had a few glitches and those who reconnected were able to continue through the entire worship service. Some people thought we had lost connection and simply left. Please reconnect and stay connected.
- What happens after March 29th? If we are still unable to gather in the sanctuary in the month of APRIL, we are working on setting up what we will be calling PARKING LOT CHURCH. We have asked the City of Alcoa for permission to block the street between our sanctuary and the parking lot on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. We will move worship to the steps and ask EVERYONE to join us in the PARKING LOT. We can sit in our cars and still be together. I will preach from the front steps and we can move a sound system and keyboard outside and we can worship together. Bulletins can be handed out when you arrive and you can leave an offering as you leave. IF WE MUST, PARKING LOT CHURCH WILL START ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5th at 11:00 a.m. We will still have communion together and wave Palm branches from our cars. Our children and youth leaders are working on special things for our children and youth as we worship together.
- Starting on APRIL 5th – Our worship will be BROADCAST LIVE on Maryville Radio Station WKVL 100.9 FM Radio. If you are in the PARKING LOT or any were else, tune in to WKVL 100.9 FM from 11:00 am until Noon on Sundays– thank you WKVL for working with us.
- The Prayer Chain is still a vital link and need, so please let Beth Green know if you have praises or prayer concerns. bgreen@alcoafumc.com
- Brooke Strayn is available for parents and children, please let Brooke know if you need some support. ALSO, several of our older youth who work in our nursery (they have been trained and vetted under our Safe Sanctuary Policy) are willing to help with childcare. Brooke Strayn has all the info so please contact her if you need an older youth

to help care for your children even if it is just for a few hours, a day, or longer.

bstrayn@alcoafumc.com

- Matt Gibbs (our new youth director) is working on Instagram programming for our youth. We are also considering dropping off some care packages for youth, and young adults who are home from school. Contact Matt Gibbs for more information 865-924-0220. Matthew.fletcher.gibbs@gmail.com
- Johnny walker and I are contacting shut-ins and those who are older and may be lonely. We are asked at this time not to visit, but we can still talk on the phone and check on each other. If you know of older adults in our congregation, give them a call and let them know they are loved. We can all do this! Johnny9143@att.net
- Genia Reel continues to process the mail, get out the emails and vital information to the congregation. If you need contacts for each other, let Genia know and she can coordinate information sharing. greel@alcoafumc.com
- Brooke Gunning is working hard to make sure our Facebook Live and other communications are updated. He is also working to get vital information on our website: Alcoafumc.com. Let Mr. Brooke know if there is information that need to be shared on our media and he will facilitate those needs. bgunning@alcoafumc.com
- Beth Green will continue to coordinate music and worship needs. She is doing well and recovering well from her resent surgery. She will work with all the components of worship to assure GOD's WORD WILL NOT BE SILENCED. bgreen@alcoafumc.com
- As your pastor, I am here for ALL of you. Please call me or Liz (423-290-3888) if there is anything we can do to help. If you want to talk, share your joys or concerns, please give us a call at 423-290-3999. We ARE HERE TO HELP – no, we are not too busy for you – call us, we would love to hear how you are doing. We miss you all. revtchancey@juno.com
- The leadership team that met last Friday will meet again on Monday, March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Green Room to plan our path forward. Those asked to meet include the Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of the following groups:
 - Church Council
 - Staff Parish Relations Committee
 - Congregational Care
 - Education Committee
 - Missions/Evangelism Committee
 - Lay Leadership
 - Executive Committee
- You are the church, I am the church, we are the church together – reach out and let each other know we are here for you. BE THE CHURCH!

Contacts:

Rev. Todd Chancey – revtchancey@juno.com – 423-290-3999

Johnny Walker – jwalker@alcoafumc.com - 865-582-6941

Genia Reel - mynanax7@gmail.com or greel@alcoafumc.com

Blessings, Pastor Todd