

Troutman First United Methodist



When the storms of life are raging...
Greetings dear First Troutman family!

*When the storms of life are raging,
stand by me; When the world is
Tossing me, like a ship upon the sea, Thou
who rulest wind and water, stand by me...*

This great hymn of faith was written by the Rev. Charles Albert Tindley (a great Methodist preacher at the turn of the 20th century, along with a great composer). Life was not easy for many people living in the north eastern United States at the turn of the 20th century. They hymn's opening stanza draws upon the images from a narrative found in three of the Gospels. Christ rebukes the winds and he stills the raging waters of the storm. Later, Tindley paints within the song a realistic picture of life's struggles when he pens in "the midst of tribulation," "the host of hell assail," and in "the midst of persecution." In its final stanza, "Stand by Me" provides the assurance that Christ has the power to overcome suffering on earth. Comfort will finally come as we approach "chilly Jordan" through Christ, the "Lily of the Valley." We are in the midst of great tribulation as we face head on a pandemic. I've never dealt with this as there are few alive who can say that they have. Tindley lived thru the 1918 Spanish Flu and I imagine his hymn was helpful to people as they sang it and were reassured of Christ's power even in the face of something so devastating.

Christ is with us during this troubling time, standing by us. Now is the time more than ever to lean on Christ and your church family. The church is here to help as much as possible. We have been and will continue to broadcast our worship services each Sunday by 10:15 AM. Please tune in to Facebook on our First Troutman Facebook page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/TroutmanUMC/>. As of this writing, we are looking at various other ways to reach out and serve you during this time of social distancing. Please let us know what specific needs you have and we will do the best to address them. Please do all you can to stay safe and may God bless you!

Pastor Jeff Hamrick

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

Passion Week
(EASTER) is not
cancelled....

Worship Services will be held ONLINE ONLY until further notice. Unfortunately, that means that we will NOT be able to celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday together. We will continue to celebrate with worship via Facebook. See link in previous column. Stay tuned for emails, phone calls, and Facebook posts coming to you from Pastor Jeff and the worship team.



NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE

Since we will not be able to gather together for Easter, we want to create a special message of **Resurrection Hope** for our church family. **WE need YOUR HELP!** Will you create a video message for Easter with your cell phone (three minutes or less). When you start your video, announce your name (or family's name), then give your message. Your message can be serious or funny. Try to remember, this is a message of Easter Hope / Easter Joy (a time to let one another know how much you miss being together worshipping as the Body of Christ. After filming your message and you are satisfied with video clip, then text to Pastor Jeff (828) 429-5925 or send via email to jeffhamrick@bellsouth.net. Please send your video clips if possible to Pastor Jeff by Tuesday morning, April 7th. Thank you for helping with this special project.



Even though we are not gathered together on Easter Sunday, please take time to celebrate the Risen Lord. When we are able to gather again, we will celebrate EASTER with each other.

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Medical Professionals Care Baskets

Troutman First and UMC Statesville churches are preparing goodie baskets for Medical professionals working around the clock to care of those diagnosed with COVID-19 Virus. On March 31st, our church donated two baskets to Iredell Home Health (home health nurses who make home calls to clients). We need your help: we are working on creating additional baskets to take to Iredell Memorial Hospital. We could use the following items in the appreciation basket: candies, cookies, peanut butter crackers, hand lotions, life-savers, gum, Kleenex packets, potato chips, etc. If you can purchase some of these items, please drop them off at the church on Mondays (or call Pastor Jeff (704) 980-4231) to schedule a time to drop these items off at church.



Iredell Home Health Nurses Enjoying the Goodie Basket donated by First Troutman UMC

Office Hours during COVID-19 Virus

In effort to maintain Governor Roy Cooper's stay at home order, TFUMC Office will be open on Monday's (9:30 AM – 3:00 PM). Office opened other days as needed (call Pastor Jeff for immediate needs (704) 980-4231 or (828) 429-5925.

**online
GIVING**
easy. fast. effective.

Thank you for the ways that you have been faithful in your continued giving during the COVID-19 social distancing.

Please remember (as you are able) to continue to give to support the ministries of Troutman First. There are several ways you can give.

- 1) Mail offering / tithe to:
First Troutman UMC
P.O. Box 717
Troutman, NC 28166
- 2) Drop off offering at church Monday mornings (9:30 AM to 12:30 PM).
- 3) Give online safe and secure from our webpage:

<https://app.easytithe.com/App/Giving/troutmanmethodist>

Pray about how you could give to help the church continue our ministries.



Troutman First is preparing a "welcome basket (pounding)" for a newly married couple (Katie & Clark Dotson). This couple lives near the church; they are looking for a church home, and she has visited our church. They got married last weekend and due to the COVID-19 Virus had to scale back guests, reception, and honeymoon plans canceled. As an act of love, we want to give them a house warming gift. When you are at the store, if you could pick-up house warming (pounding) items (lb. of sugar, flour, dish or laundry detergent, cookies, or gift cards for Food Lion, etc.) to show them that we are wishing them well and congratulations. Before bringing them by church to drop them off: please contact Pastor Jeff (704) 980-4231 or (828) 429-5925 to make sure someone is at church office.