



## **CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE – Updated March 17, 2020 - 1:00pm:**

At Chandler UMC we take the health and well-being of our congregation, staff and community very seriously. COVID-19 is in the news and all of us have realized in the past 36 hours: **It is time.** It is time to put in place all the safe practices recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC). It is time to cease any unnecessary gathering of people for the foreseeable future.

### **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

- The time has come to practice and perfect social distance. You may very well weather the illness with little disruption of your life, but you may also carry the illness exposing others, for as long as 14 days before experiencing symptoms.
- Follow all guidelines from the [CDC](#) and the [Maricopa County Health Department](#) to help prevent the spread of the virus.

### **WORSHIP:**

- Beginning Sunday, March 22, Chandler United Methodist will worship solely online for the foreseeable future: Sermons, holy week reflections, worship moments, will be posted [here](#).
- Last Sunday's (March 15) Worship is on the church web page [here](#). Next Sunday (March 22) we will continue the series on Anxiety, Dis-Ease and Discipleship. [here](#).
- Please also use our online [prayer request](#) and secure web page [giving portal](#).

You may also mail donations to Chandler United Methodist Church, 450 E Chandler Heights Rd, Chandler, AZ 85249.

### **CONGREGATIONAL CARE:**

- Our congregational care team and pastor will continue to care for our congregation, while taking precautions to protect everyone's health and prevent the spread of the virus. While we are suspending most in-person visitation, the team will utilize notes, phone calls, email, text or Facetime to keep in touch with those in need.
- Hospitals and care facilities are limiting visitors. Our care team and pastor will only make in-person visits upon direct invitation if permitted by the facility. They will diligently wash hands before and after every visit, and refrain from touching patients' hands.

### **SMALL GROUPS, CLASSES AND SUPPORT GROUPS:**

- All face to face gatherings and committee meetings are postponed until further notice. Chairpersons will coordinate needed conversation using email or other appropriate methods.
- Children's Sunday School Lesson material/activities will be included in the weekly email blast.
- Chancel and Bell Choirs practices are suspended until further notice.
- The trustee workday scheduled March 28 will be rescheduled in the future.
- The leaders of Lifegroup, SpiritSeekers, Women of the Word, United Methodist Women, Men's Group, AFM bowling and Financial Peace University will be in contact with participants throughout this sequestration. There will be no in-person gatherings of these groups until further notice.
- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts have suspended all meetings until further notice.

### **MISSIONS:**

- Food collection for AzCend will continue on campus. Please email [office@chandlermethodist.org](mailto:office@chandlermethodist.org) to schedule drop off.
- IHelp will continue on site. Volunteers, leaders, and participants will take precautions appropriate for their own personal health situation.
- We are working closely with our mission partners, pantries, and agencies to determine their needs and ways in which our church can help during this time. Opportunities to serve others will be shared as our community's response develops.

### **FINANCES & SECURITY:**

- It is imperative we all continue our financial support of the work of the church. During this time it is crucial that we continue to provide our tithes and offerings. Monthly bills, including the mortgage and payroll of our dedicated staff, continue.
- Situations of stress embolden criminal enterprise. Please note that our pastor and staff will never contact you individually asking you to buy gift cards or donate through an unfamiliar app. We have only three ways we receive donations:
  1. Through auto-withdrawal, set up with our financial administrator. Please contact the office at [office@chandlermethodist.org](mailto:office@chandlermethodist.org) for more details about this option.
  2. Through our secure web page [giving portal](#).
  3. By mailing a check to Chandler UMC, 450 E Chandler Heights Rd, Chandler, AZ 85249.

If anyone asks you to give in any other way, please do not hesitate to email the church office to inquire, as unsolicited requests do not represent CUMC and are attempts to scam you.

### **OFFICE & STAFF:**

- The office is open by appointment only.
- In addition to regular cleaning by a professional, highly touched surfaces in the office and throughout the facility are sanitized frequently.
- Our staff and volunteers are committed to maintaining a healthy environment by reducing interpersonal contact, washing hands / wiping workspaces frequently and maintaining adequate safe distance when contact is necessary.
- Staff members are being encouraged to work from home as is possible.
- Staff who become sick, or discover they have been around someone who developed symptoms, will stay home for the recommended quarantine period.
- As the situation evolves, our staff will continue to connect with volunteers and congregants through email and phone calls to keep you updated on cancellations and program changes.

### **YOU CAN BE A LIGHT IN A TIME OF CRISIS:**

- Pray for those who are affected by this virus – those who are ill, the medical professionals treating them, the scientists working on vaccines and cures, those with mental health concerns, and the leaders making tough decisions to try and curb the spread of the virus and keep us safe, as well as those who are feeling lonely at this time – please reach out to anyone you think might be feeling isolated over the next few weeks.
- Educate yourself about the Coronavirus from credible and reliable sources, such as from the [World Health Organization](#), the [CDC](#), and the [Maricopa County Health Department](#). Know the symptoms and have a plan for what you would do if you or a family member were to become sick.
- Check on your friends and neighbors. If you know someone who may not have internet access, give them a call and share the information in this letter. If the virus spreads through our community as predicted, we can continue to reach out and care for one another through phone calls, emails and social media.
- As the virus spreads, many doctors and nurses will be working long hours. Consider ways you can bless these medical professionals with acts of kindness and notes of appreciation.
- Remember this is temporary. Our church continues to serve our congregation and community. Continue to be a part of the ministry – the need for the support you give in the Chandler area and around the world continues despite the pandemic. Watch the church web site and your email for opportunities to serve.

### **A NEW FUTURE:**

- Although Covid-19 is disrupting what has become familiar, there is perhaps a silver lining. God seems to work when our ways are disrupted. Have you noticed being willing to have our habits disturbed is a precursor to discipleship? (*Leave your nets behind, choose the narrow path, sell all you have and give it to the poor, pick up your cross, pick up your mat, care for the poor, come follow me.*)

Our willingness to think creatively and become something new will result in expanding our outreach and worship opportunities in ways that will improve our relevance to our world and remain long after this pandemic has passed.

### **WE BELIEVE:**

... grace filled living makes all the difference.

... we find the best meaning in life serving others.

... things falling apart is an opportunity for us to be our best.

... the best method of teaching our kids is seeing us care, give, worship.

... Jesus is the best example of all these things and seek to imitate him.

Each of you is near my heart as we navigate uncharted territory.

Jonathan