



A Lighthouse of HOPE...reaching, caring, teaching & sharing; united to reflect God's Love to ALL.

Winchester United Methodist Church

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May the Peace, Presence and Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ continue to surround you this day! Short of any unseen setbacks or surprises (which is always a possibility in the coronavirus era), we are, slowly but surely, getting back to our church activities, though on a limited basis. We have completed two, Sunday Morning, in person Worship Services in July, all the while keeping and observing safety guidelines and protocols. We have yet to reach our 50 in attendance max, which means almost everyone in Worship has their own PEW! I continue to be encouraged to hear from so many of you about how you are enjoying the Sunday Morning Worship Broadcast from the comfort of your own homes!

Reminders

Speaking of our Sunday Morning Worship Broadcast, there will be a slight change in the broadcast replay time, beginning this Sunday, July 26. Since we are back offering In Person Worship Service, our Broadcast Team will record the 9:00am Sunday Service with Shawn Ford playing piano, and then will do their edit and re-play work. The Sunday Worship Broadcast Production should be ready by 2:00pm each Sunday. **EXCEPTION: the first Sunday of the Month Broadcast** will be available for viewing by early, Sunday Morning since those are **DRIVE THRU COMMUNION SUNDAYS and there will be NO In Person Worship on those first Sundays of the Month (8/2, 9/6, 10/4).** We do apologize for any inconvenience, but this "new" broadcast schedule will assure we have a "happy broadcast team"!!

WUMC Financial Update

Our WUMC Finance Team has been meeting on a monthly basis in order to monitor and evaluate our financial situation during this pandemic era. The Finance Team is happy to report that as we approach the end of July, WUMC is up to date on ALL of our missional, ministry and local church expense obligations! We are current with our IGRC Apportionments, all utilities, monthly operating expenses, and we have met every pay period for our four, staff members! I join with the WUMC Finance Team in THANKING ALL OF YOU for your prayers, gifts, offerings and financial support, as we near the end of July. We walk by faith, and trust God for His daily guidance and blessings.

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Closing Remarks


We almost have another month in the coronavirus era under our belts, and if what we continue to see on the evening news is any measure, RELIEF – in the form of a treatment or a vaccine-- cannot come soon enough! Until that time becomes reality, I think of how important it is to encourage one another, to keep a positive state of mind, and to keep plodding our way through this crisis a day at a time. I have learned many, life lessons by being around team or individual sports, and those essential attributes one learns in order to be successful in meeting life's challenges: determination, mental discipline and focus, teamwork, working on the fundamentals, and staying "grounded" between the highs of victory and the lows of failure and defeat.

Encouragement is always a key, necessary component required to meet any challenge: DON'T GIVE UP, and GIVE IT YOUR BEST EFFORT, and PUSH YOURSELF, YOU CAN DO THIS, and a host of other, admonitions. In the Church, we encourage each other to have Faith, Trust God, and to remember the words and teachings of Jesus. Paul the Apostle wrote these words of encouragement to his Mid-First Century hearers: *"If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing of the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind... Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..."* (Phil. 2:1-2,5a)

There you go: words of encouragement! In these times when we see people who are angry, bitter, in despair, without a lot of any hope, and thinking of only themselves, we as Followers of Jesus Christ must be "a light to the nations", or as we say at the Winchester UMC, "a Lighthouse of Hope". Let's continue to encourage each other with words and deeds of hope, love, service, kindness, genuineness. After all, we have Good News to share to a hurting world: that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all!

You are always in my daily prayers! Let's keep praying for the healing of body and soul in our Land. Let's pray that God will continue to raise up faithful people and leaders to be His instruments of peace. Stay strong in Christ's love, be kind, and always help others when you can. Especially encourage each other, and be encouraged by the graciousness of others, and always, KEEP FAITH!

In Christ's Love and Service,



Rev. Robin Lyons