



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

# Winchester United Methodist Church

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July 30, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May the Peace, Presence and Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ continue to surround you this day!

Here we are at the end of July, meaning we have made it through another Month in what many have called the most "challenging Year in a Century". I don't know about 2020 being THE MOST challenging Year in a Century, but for me, December 31 can hardly come soon enough! We all know that we can't just hit the "fast forward arrow on our Life Remotes" and get to Year 2021. It doesn't work like that, and with life being short and unpredictable enough, who really wants to rush through even a day? The only way to get through this virus crisis is to GO THROUGH IT, day by day, until it is no longer a threat. As Paul the Apostle once wrote, "let us run the race that is set before us with perseverance". Remember, we are not alone in this Race: we have God's Love in and through our Lord Jesus, and we have each other –brothers and sisters in Faith and fellow members of the Body of Christ.

## Reminders

**This Sunday Morning, August 2, is a DRIVE THRU/WALK UP COMMUNION SUNDAY!** I will be serving the Sacrament of Holy Communion from 8:30am-10:00am, in front of the main, covered entrance leading into the Church (East side parking lot). Our UM Men's Team will be present to help assist and direct everyone. We will offer pre-packaged, Communion packets. An Offering bucket will be available for those wishing to drop off their offering/gift for the Church. Since there will be NO IN PERSON WORSHIP this Sunday, everyone is encouraged to watch our Sunday Worship Broadcast, which will be ready for viewing early Sunday Morning! We return to In Person Worship on August 9, for those who are comfortable with returning to In Person Church. WUMC will continue to offer our Sunday Worship Broadcast for those choosing to remain in the comfort of their homes ([winchesterilumc.org](http://winchesterilumc.org)). Remember you can make your in-person worship reservation by calling the church office or by using the link [winchesterumc.app.rsvpify.com](http://winchesterumc.app.rsvpify.com).

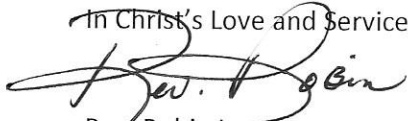
## Closing Remarks

As I was watching a portion of the funeral Service for the Congressman, Reverend and Human Rights icon, John Lewis on TV, I listened to an amazing, Gospel singer sing these words: "only what you do for Jesus will last". I was reminded again (like I always remind you) that by nature, things and life itself is transitory. "No Thing" lasts forever. Even human bodies eventually start to deteriorate and give out, and yet, People of Faith have always believed that what we do on this Earth for Jesus and for God's Kingdom of love and grace, endures. Jesus once said, "*Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away*", or "*do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume...but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...*". What we do in our lives to further the Kingdom of God on earth, and what we do to love and serve others in the Name of Jesus, will be a worthy, lasting testament of faith! The way of love, the more "excellent way" as Paul calls it in I Corinthians 13, always lasts, always endures and always overcomes.

OVER

Once again this week, let's do our best to be a "light for Christ" in all that we do and say. Let's help bring out the best in others, because we know that Christ brings out the best in us. Remember that you are always in my daily prayers, and I ask you to continue to pray for the healing of body and soul in our Land: "Lord, make us instruments of Thy love." Stay strong in Christ's love, be kind and help others when you can. Let's encourage each other, as we get through the coronavirus era. So, trust in God, and KEEP FAITH!

In Christ's Love and Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Robin Lyons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rev." written in a smaller, more formal script than the last name "Lyons".

Rev. Robin Lyons  
Minister