



EAST NAPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2701 Airport Road South, Naples, Florida 34112-4817

Dear Members and Friends of East Naples United Methodist Church:

As you know, these are unique and troublesome times: for our church, community, country, and the world. No one could have predicted that we would be in the middle of a Covid-19 pandemic. The social isolation orders have changed the way we all worship this year. Many of these changes were required by both the State of Florida, as well as the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. The conference has some very specific guidelines about how we are allowed to worship. Only recently did the conference feel we could do in-person worship, and only with some very strict limitations on what we can do.

Back in March, the leadership team of the church met to discuss the impact of the temporary stop of in person worship, as well as Bible studies and youth gatherings. This was going to cause a huge financial strain on our church. At that time, the leadership made some very difficult decisions. Some of these decisions included:

- Freezing all spending on non-critical expenses
- Reducing cleaning costs while campus is closed
- Postponing maintenance on A/C units
- Renegotiating service agreements during the closure.

While many of these may have gone unnoticed, the Staff Parish Relations committee also found it necessary to make staffing changes during these difficult times. These changes included:

- Furloughing the Director of Children's Ministries
- Furloughing the Office Assistant
- Furloughing the Child Care positions
- Reducing compensation for special musical vocalists or accompanists
- Reduction in salary for some positions,
- And most recently, changing the Director of Music Ministries from full time to part time.

All of these staffing changes have helped reduce our largest expense, salaries. These were implemented to be a short-term solution to a serious cash flow situation. These changes will be reviewed as our situation improves and programs are added back into our ministries.

Our financial situation is not in a good position. We have reduced or eliminated a lot of our expenses, but despite these painful changes, we are still not covering our monthly expenses. For the first half of the year, we have a deficit of over \$35,000. Income for the first 6 months was only \$239,738. Our expenses were \$274,957. This does not include some very large obligations that we have deferred payments such as apportionments and some insurance premiums.

We, as a church, are trying to move forward. We need everyone's help. First and foremost, we need your prayers. Please pray for the staff, volunteers, and the United Methodist Church as a whole, to be strong and find ways to fulfill our Church Mission. Also, pray for those affected by the coronavirus and for scientists to develop a vaccine.

Second, we need your financial support. Just meeting our current expenses will not be enough to return to our previous staffing levels. Be thoughtful and generous about your giving to support ENUMC. Please give in person, via the online giving, or mail us your support.

Third, you can help us by joining our weekly service, and tell your friends, neighbors, coworkers, and even strangers about our Sunday Service. We have implemented vigorous cleaning methods for the sanctuary, bathrooms and common areas. There is social distancing for sitting in the pews and temperature checks for everyone entering the building. For those who are not able to attend in person, we are streaming the service every Sunday. Check us out on FaceBook or our website.

Lastly, we need everyone to stay safe, make wise choices, and encourage others to do the same. Our in-person worship service will only improve if we can safely meet and return to our formal service. The Florida Conference will let us know when we can start having congregational singing, a choir, Children's Church, and Sunday school. The Florida Conference is watching the State's COVID-19 positive test numbers.

Sincerely,

Paul Clemmensen
Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations Committee