



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

The Life of the Church

by Pastor John

March 18, 2020

Dear Church Family,

“The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.” These lyrics from the hymn *I Am the Church* have never been more true than they are now. Our church building is closed to regular activities as a precaution during the Coronavirus pandemic, but we as a people remain thriving and connected in unprecedented ways.

THANK YOU to our lay leadership for helping us navigate our way through this challenging time and stay on course in our ministry and mission; and thanks to all of you for your patience and perseverance as the people of God.

For reasons I trust you will understand, I am basically self-isolated like everyone else. I have suspended pastoral visits to homes, hospitals, and nursing homes for all but essential (e.g., end-of-life) support, until we are all on safer ground. But I’m still in business – and business is booming! – by text, phone and email. Please call me if you have specific needs or just want a listening ear during periods of solitude.

An abbreviated issue of the *Messenger* will be published tomorrow (Thursday) to provide an update to the initial response WUMC has taken in doing its part to slow the spread of the virus and protect the ones we love (please refer to the e-mail sent on March 13, 2020). The *Messenger* will feature a number of ways we can continue to be the church when we cannot attend church. Please stay safe, stay well, and stay in touch with your church family and with God.

Grace and peace,

John

Open Hearts . Open Minds . Open Doors