



## Greetings First Family and Friends,

As we continue to live into a new reality with the spread of COVID-19, we are all learning to do things differently, returning to the very basics, and adjusting our lives, schools, works, social interactions, and faith practices. The Church as a whole is being thrust into a new reality with many asking, “at our very core—what must we be, have, or do to be ‘church’?”

Here are some of my observations...

- Church is a diverse community of people who are held together by a common belief in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Some of us are passionately committed followers, some of us are still “checking out” Jesus. All of us are yearning for a deeper relationship.
- Gathering together is essential in our experiencing the risen Christ and being in communion with God. The faith and life of Christ is by definition lived in community with God and his people. Faith can never be solely practiced in isolation and private. The books of Acts 2:42 says, “they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to breaking of bread and the prayers.” (NRSV)
- We quickly learn from Jesus that his ways are defined by love—specifically loving God and loving neighbor. This love is marked by actions that express love of God through worship and love of neighbor through compassion, kindness, and humble service.
- The love-fueled faith is shared in relationship with Jesus and one another.

The “what” that makes us Church remains the same—it’s the “how” we are Church that has been greatly disrupted. Be encouraged that the world-changing movement that you are part of was birthed and spread in such a season of disruptive innovation. In Acts 11:19-30 we see the early Christians scattered by persecution, starting a new form of church in Antioch. Their “local church” looked radically different from the church in Jerusalem. When Barnabas arrived, “he saw what the grace of God has done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”

While the Church today finds itself somewhat “scattered”, unable to gather in the ways that feel most familiar, we are still the Church! The Holy Spirit is still working among us and through us, the Good News of Jesus is being proclaimed, and we continue to love God and love our neighbors as we adapt to new realities.

Below you will find and update on some ways we are being and adapting to the new realities of church and practicing our faith.

- We continue to learn new technology to not only better provide online worship for now and the future but ways to better be in communication and ministry with you.
- In addition to online worship, online devotionals and Sunday school are available. Josh provides online resources for children’s Sunday school and Wonderful Wednesday, Kyle leads an adult online Sunday school, and Billy offers opportunities through music.
- Our Confirmation class continues to meet weekly through Zoom.
- We continue receive items for CAP and Help4Kids.
- Flowers are being delivered to many of our older members.
- VBS has been delayed, but we are looking to alternative days and ways to host VBS.

These are just some of the ways we are ministry. I know there are even more happening and more to come!

Ministries like those above and more continue because of our faithful God and your faithful giving. We continue to remain financially stable during this season with your continued generosity. Many of you have converted to online giving during this season. We thank you each for your continued financial support.

We hope you continue to see our how truly blessed we are during this season. We pray God’s continued blessings upon you and your family, and with great anticipation, we look forward to the day when we will gather face-to-face to celebrate the faithfulness of our Lord.

Grace and Peace,  
Your First UMC Staff

## Birthdays This Week

**May 3:** Birdie Insley

**May 4:** Addison Hardwick

**May 5:** Emily Thompkins; **May 8:** Sammy Johnson

**May 9:** Lynn Hammond, Sarah Staub

**Prayer Concerns:** Jim Mishoe, Woodie Woodward, Bobby Stilley, Joann Wiegand, Bob Miller, Braelyn Philips, Karlene Rudolph, Louise Goodwin, Val Dunham, **At Home:** Ronny Thompkins, Sonya Martin, Julia Land, Bernice Stone, Virginia Buck, Sue Dusenbury, Janet Von Deck, Frank Stilley, George & Jan Kyzer, Catherine Causey, Frances Reaman, Virginia Hardwick, Sylvia Avant, Kathy Tuttle, Rebecca Howell, Eugenia Benton, Billy Joe Calhoun, Ruth Thomas, Ted Boyd.

## STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26

<b>Operating Fund</b>	7,346.00	Sunday School Online	429+
<b>Designated Giving</b>	30.00	Worship Online	571+
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	445.00	CAP Items:	163

As the generous people of FUMC, we ask that you continue your giving via online <https://onrealm.org/fumconway/give/operatingfund>, Text **Firstconway** to **73256** or by mailing your offering to the church, 1001 Fifth Avenue, Conway, SC 29526. Our Promises to God are a vital part of continuing the mission and ministry that supports the community, staff leadership, and the total ministry of FUMC. **Your continued financial support is critical** in helping the church continue to be the church, especially in times like this.

For now, the staff continues to be present on the FUMC campus during the week. They are working very hard to ensure FUMC has the opportunity to respond to community mission needs as they occur, maintain the FUMC campus, and be available to you during this challenging time.

Parents, if you have a child graduating from High School or College, please contact the church office. Full Name, Where they are Graduating from and future plans. 843-488-4251 or [office@fumconway.org](mailto:office@fumconway.org)

Der Kyle and FUMC Friends, Thank you again for the beautiful Easter bouquet that you brought me. It was so thoughtful of you and I have enjoyed it and am still enjoying it. It is lovely and has lasted well. I took pictures of it on my cell phone. Stay safe and well. *Love, Margaret Jordan*

## FUMC Staff

Reverend Kyle Randle, Pastor  
Billy Fallaw, MM, Dir. of Music & Organist  
Josh Tietje, BS, Dir. of Christian Ed. & Mission  
Danny Clonts, Accountant  
Cathy Estridge, Ministry Assistant  
Gayle Fanshaw, Nursery Attendant  
James Graham, Sexton  
Chrissy Merolle, Nursery Attendant  
Sherrie Gasque, Nursery Attendant

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# First United Methodist Church

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## Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

10:30 a.m.



## Welcome to First United Methodist Church

Out of a broken and sinful world, all people are welcomed into the body of Jesus Christ at First Church. As children of God, together we join in worship to experience the transforming love of our Savior.

We are here this morning to worship God. Through our songs, words of praise, prayers and scripture reading, we give honor and glory to God. Wondrous things happen as we worship. Lives are changed. The presence of God brings hope, comfort, healing, and joy. Let us worship in gladness. Jesus, the Lord of Life is with us.