

Dear Wilmore FMC Family,

I hope you are enjoying the day today. Though the sky is cloudy, the grass is green and the plants are flowering. God is with us, and in spite of the virus, in the eternal sense, all is well for those who know Jesus.

A few items today:

First, a Word About Scams. Please be aware that, while events like the one we're experiencing often bring out the best in people, they also give opportunity for others to lie, cheat and steal. Please be aware of scams – especially electronic ones. [Click here for some good, basic advice from First Southern Bank on avoiding scams.](#)

Second, When Will We Meet Together? We are likely all wondering about how long this “quarantine” situation will endure. Of course, we don't know for sure – I don't think anyone does, but the fact that restrictions are getting tighter rather than looser across the nation suggest to me that we're in this for at least 4-6 more weeks, and likely longer. I believe we need to think in these terms and prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually for that reality.

Third, a Big Thank You! Many thanks to all who are serving a pastoral care givers, all who are checking on friends and neighbors, all who are helping put worship and ABFs and other groups online. In person is usually best, but when that's impossible, it's the human connection that really counts. I'd encourage you...don't wait for someone to reach out to you. Make the effort – take the initiative to connect with friends and neighbors.

Fourth, a Note about Finances. A few have asked about how the church is doing, financially. We have not closed the books on March yet, but due to a strong February, the first quarter giving looks to be right on target. Thank you for your faithful giving, even if it takes a little extra work to actually give.

Regarding finances, let me add this: as this situation drags on, more and more people, including, of course, those in our church, will begin to feel the financial crunch of lost jobs, etc. So far, benevolence requests have been few, and we've helped where we could, but the requests will surely increase. We want to continue to be in a position to help those with real needs. Also, we want to keep the financial commitments we have made to missionaries and mission agencies. So please keep giving as you can through mail, online ([click here](#)) or drop off at the box in the church office. Pastor Dwight also offers to come to your house and pick up your offerings if need be. ☺

Fortunately, our daily, operating expenses are decreasing; with virtually no programming comes diminished expenses and we're only air conditioning / heating the office and foyer areas of Building A.

Fifth, Some Notes about Worship. For the foreseeable future, we'll continue to record and post worship services to the WFMC YouTube Channel. A few have suggested other ways of physically getting together, but in thinking these all the way through, for many reasons, we are choosing to stay with YouTube.

Remember that many of our ABFs are meeting via Zoom. You are welcome to join these groups. Watch for links to these meetings included in every Saturday's Update. All these links are on wilmorefmc.org as well.

Sixth and Finally, Some Special Events:

Today: Today at noon was supposed to be Wednesday Prayer and Fasting in the sanctuary. In lieu of that, attached to this e-mail is a prayer guide that you may want to use to guide your prayer today.

Also Today: A few weeks ago, I asked several from our church family to record some of their thoughts about all that is happening in these days. Today I present the first, from Jerry Coleman. [Click here to watch and listen.](#)

Palm Sunday: Palm branches may be picked up at the church beginning this Friday morning through 5:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon. Please take some and stick them on your front door as a witness for the glory of our King.

Maundy Thursday: Typically, Pastor Andrea leads the youth in a modified Seder meal. Since we left “typical” about three weeks ago, this year she has produced a booklet with instructions for a complete Seder meal/service. Those are available at the office beginning tomorrow during office hours, or an electronic copy is attached.

Good Friday: We will post a devotional thought on Good Friday morning for Good Friday worship, which will include Holy Communion. Pre-packaged Communion elements are available at the office for this occasion daily during office hours, and also this Friday/Saturday (they’ll be placed with the palm branches outside.)

Easter: All who pre-ordered Easter flowers in honor or memory of loved ones may pick those up next Thursday and Friday during office hours.

Also, don’t forget to post your “He Is Risen!” yard signs on Easter morning. If you’re new to WFMC since last Easter and/or you’ve never had a sign, please pick one up at the church anytime between now and Saturday, April 11.

So...in preparation for Holy Week, you can pick up at the church office:

Palm Sunday Palm Branches:	8:30 a.m., Friday, April 3 – 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 4
Maundy Thursday Printed Service Orders:	8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 2 – 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 9
Good Friday Communion Elements:	8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 2 – 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 10
Pre-ordered Easter Flowers:	8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 9 – 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 10
“He Is Risen!” Easter Yard Signs:	8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 2 – 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 4

Remember, the office, library and sanctuary are open each weekday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Look for the link to Sunday worship and the online ABFs in the Update on Saturday.

*The Lord is our Rock, in Him we hide – a shelter in the time of storm.
Secure whatever ill betide - a shelter in the time of storm.*

A shade by day, defense by night; no fears alarm, no foes affright.

The raging storms may round us beat; we'll never leave our safe retreat.

O Rock divine, O Refuge dear; be Thou our helper ever near.

Refrain:

*O Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
O Jesus is a Rock in a weary land; a shelter in the time of storm.*

May the Lord give us all grace for the day.

Pastor Daryl