



Covenant United Methodist Church

20301 PLEASANT RIDGE DRIVE
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20

TELEPHONE: (301) 926-8920 FAX: (301) 926-7782 EMAIL: office@covenant-umc.org

“Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been more than a month since I sent the first letter announcing that our building was closed. Since that time, we have learned that the building may be closed, but the church is still at work. I am so proud of all our Covenant UMC family has done to take worship online, stay connected, and be in ministry and outreach to the community. Given that we will continue as we are through at least May 15th, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some updates:

Online Worship & Study: We have started our own church YouTube Channel (click [HERE](#)) and offer a rich and meaningful service full of great music, words of greeting and scripture from familiar faces, and a message from me. We’d love you and your family to be part of passing the peace! Just e-mail Pastor Dawn (dawn.stewart@covenant-umc.org) and she will send you information on how to be send your greeting to the church. There is no doubt online worship is different from worshipping together in the sanctuary, but this is one way we are sustaining our worship and reaching out into our community. We’ve had numerous folks join our worship from across the country! As you enjoy the worship, we also invite you to join us for a ZOOM fellowship hour from 9:30-10:30 weekly. You can connect via your computer or simply by calling in.

Also, our Tuesday Night Live and Sunday night studies have gone virtual and continue to meet online. If you would like to join either group, contact Mary Church (mmchurch70@gmail.com).

Staying Connected: Our phone tree is on week 5 and I hope you and your family have been blessed by these calls. It has been a great way to stay in touch and get to know new people. If you aren’t getting calls and want to be added to the tree, please email the office (office@covenant-umc.org) with your name and number. We also have a Monday ZOOM prayer and share time. Finally, our social media team has started a new Facebook outreach campaign to provide a daily post to encourage and support our church community. Please check our page daily and like or comment on the posts to engage with us.

Caring for Others: Our first COVID related mission is mask-making and our team has made and donated over 200 masks to Asbury, D.C. Jail and SECC (an agency supporting those with special needs) in just the last 3 weeks. We know this pandemic has hit many families hard and we’d like to invite you to help feed hungry families by donating once a month to one of these local feeding ministries:

- a. Gaithersburg Help: <https://www.gaithersburghelp.org/donate/>
- b. Manna: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cov/>

Our team is meeting every two weeks and has reached out to local schools, hospitals, and fire/police stations and will have more opportunities in the near future for you to offer love and care to those on the front lines in our battle against this virus and to our local families.

We may be worshipping differently, but we are finding ways connect with God. We may be distanced, but we are not disconnected. We may be asked to stay at home, but we are still reaching out to the community. We are still the body of Christ at Covenant UMC, reaching out to our diverse community, welcoming all, growing into beloved community, gathering to grow and sent to serve.

If you would like to be a part of one of our teams (online worship, staying connected, caring for others) or if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at dawn.stewart@covenant-umc.org or (301) 848-2265. I look forward to that day when we will gather in person again and am confident that God will continue to work in and through us in the coming days.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Dawn