

March 18, 2020

Subject: Giving during COVID-19

During these uncertain times, we are making big changes in our daily lives. We are changing how our children attend school, how and whether we travel, where we do our work and even how we worship to limit exposure to the coronavirus, COVID-19.

The people of Seward United Methodist Church are doing their best to continue day-to-day activities. Using Facebook, we are able to continue to have meaningful Wednesday and Sunday worship services without requiring people to leave their homes. Using Zoom videoconferencing, committees and other groups can connect to do the work behind our church's activities.

These connections are so important especially during our faith walk in the Lenten season. We are blessed to have pastoral leaders, musicians, singers and others who provide their talents and services.

Clearly the work of the church goes on and in times like these, more people will need spiritual, financial and physical support.

But without a Sunday morning service, we now need to rethink how we contribute to our church's mission and operations. At their first video-conferenced meeting March 17, members of the SUMC Finance Committee, Pastor Robert, Wess Robotham and SPRC Chair Mike Shriver discussed alternate giving methods to serve the church. Among them:

- Combining Facebook and PayPal options for online giving (a Paypal button is now available on sewardumc.org)
- Encouraging use of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from members' banks to the church, which can be set up for recurring automatic transfers (contact the church office)
- Using the US Postal Service or the secure mail box near the front door of the church to deliver checks to church

We will keep you updated on the giving options available until we can again gather in the sanctuary as a church family. Thank you for keeping the church in your prayers and gift plans.

Please remember that the church is here for you during this time. Our ongoing communication as a congregation will help as we all try to stay healthy and take care of one another.

Thank you,

Randy Halder
Chair Finance Committee

PS Please note on your check or transfers if you intend your gifts to support funds other than the general fund. Special designations can be made for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) at any time to assist the church's broader mission efforts during the pandemic.