



Middletown  
United Methodist Church

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[www.middletownumcnj.org](http://www.middletownumcnj.org)

**Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them,  
walking on the lake (Matthew 14.25).**

Dear Friends,

Greeting to you this evening from the Prince of Peace!

I find assurance and calm in my life knowing that our God is the One who walked on water during the storm. Normally when there is a storm raging people run inside for cover. Not Jesus - He walks on the water during the storm to reach those who are in danger, distress, and in need! Amen.

This afternoon, I would like to share with you some updates of what is happening in the life of our church. We have entered into uncertain times. Words such as outbreak and pandemic that were once associated with movies and video games are now part of our everyday vocabulary. At Middletown UMC we are taking the advice of the CDC and approaching everything with extreme caution pertaining to the Coronavirus.

**Sunday, March 22 - Worship Online only**

For March 22, we will have one combined worship celebration at 10 am. There will be two ways to join us: via the livestream or a phone call. While **we will not be worshipping together in the sanctuary**, we will be joining our hearts, minds, and voices in praise.

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**Our worship celebrations are always live streamed via Facebook,  
including this Sunday.**  
***You DO NOT have to have a Facebook account to watch the  
livestream!***

**CLICK THIS BUTTON TO WATCH OUR LIVESTREAM VIDEOS!**

- Please note, if you are prompted to make a Facebook account and do not want to, select "**NOT NOW**" at the bottom of the prompt. You will be able to see the page once you close that box.
- You can access the livestream on your phone, desktop computer, laptop, or tablet.
- If you do not see our videos immediately on the Facebook page, scroll further down the page.

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### **Not Comfortable With Facebook? Join Our Conference Call!**

- Step One: Dial 929-436-2866.
- Step Two: When asked, enter the meeting id: 947 829 707 followed by the "#".
- Step Three: Join us for worship live. Please note your phone will be automatically muted. For the sake of all the others on the call please leave your phone muted. This means that you will be able to hear what is happening during worship but others will not be able to hear you. )

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### **Building Usage**

All outside groups have been asked not to meet in the Middletown United Methodist Church Building.

All church teams and groups are invited to meet via video or conference calls. Please visit [our website](#) for updated information on meeting locations and venues.

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### **The Lenten Journey**

The Lenten Journey for the balance of this Lenten Season is shifting to online discussions. The children's group is temporarily postponed. We are working on ways in which the children could engage with each other through video type conferencing. The adult groups are transforming to discuss the Scriptures in light of what we are currently going through. The group leaders will be reaching out to the participants to coordinate the when and how of their 'meeting.'

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### **Wednesday Evening Coffee Chat**

You are invited to join Pastor Derrick on a video conference on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Grab a cup of coffee, log on to the video conference, and enjoy some Christian fellowship through our use of technology. During the conversation, Pastor Derrick will be sharing a Scripture passage, updates from our church and denomination, and general Christian life conversations. During times like these it is important for us to come together. Unfortunately, we must practice 'social distancing.' Therefore, let's join together around a virtual coffee table.

To join via video conference

- Please go to your apps store and download the ZOOM apps (it is free).

**AFTER Downloading Zoom, Click This Button**

- Meeting ID: 613 396 310
- Password: 679380
- If you would prefer to call in (no video of yourself) please dial 1 929 436 2866 and then use the same Meeting ID and password. Questions, please email or call the church office.

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### **Message Bag**

The Message Bag is going electronic via video conferencing. They will be meeting this Wednesday, March 18 at 3 pm. Interested parents should email Pastor Derrick for more information. ([Derrick@middletownumcnj.org](mailto:Derrick@middletownumcnj.org)).

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### **Learning Path Preschool**

Our wonderful preschool has closed through March 20<sup>th</sup>. Later this week things will be assessed regarding when the preschool will reopen. Questions please email [learningpath.director@gmail.com](mailto:learningpath.director@gmail.com).



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### **Phone Tree**

The leadership of our church is currently developing an 'old school' phone tree for the sake of everyone getting at least one phone call a week from their church family. Please be patient as we are putting this together. We currently have over 435 people worshipping within our church family so there is some amazing coordination happening.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this and previous letters that I have sent out. Please share with email with others in the church family. It is important to make sure everyone is receiving the information.

I would like to ask you to take a moment and look around the room that you are sitting in. Right now, we are all in a boat similar to the boat that the disciples were in as recorded in Matthew 14. Our boat is getting tossing in the angry waves of the Coronavirus. The winds of change and uncertainty are blowing hard against the hull of our boat. It seems that all is chaos and that uncertainty is surrounding us. Lift your head up. Look out over those waves and through the furious wind. Do you see that? It's not a ghost but it's Jesus coming to us walking on the water (Matthew 14.22-36). I promise you, friends, that Jesus is out walking on the water coming to us even in this storm called the Coronavirus! Just call out to Him.

I look forward to 'seeing' you on Wednesday night. Be safe my friends.

Peace and God's blessings.  
In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Derrick LCC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Derrick L. Doherty

Pastor Middletown United Methodist Church



