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March 17, 2020

To the beloved Chesterton UMC family:

To prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus, we have decided to suspend all normal worship services, groups and events at the church through April 12<sup>th</sup>. Last night Church Council met and agreed to follow the recommendations of the CDC, White House and Indiana UM Conference in an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Specifically this means...

- We will not meet together for worship in person, including Holy Week and Easter, but we are working on ways that we can gather online for worship and study. Watch for more information.
- We are working on a plan to stay connected to one another via church-wide phone calls. It is still important for us to listen, pray, serve and encourage each other in this uncertain time. Again, watch for more information to come.
- The church and the office are closed to the public. Pastors and staff will check phone messages at least once a day and retrieve email and postal mail. Custodians will be doing deep cleaning.
- Jacob's Table will offer pickup meals only on Monday, March 23 from 4:30-5:30pm. Afterward, we will determine if this ministry continues and how.
- If you have physical needs or prayer requests please leave a message through the church phone (219-926-1478) or email ([chesterton.umc@frontier.com](mailto:chesterton.umc@frontier.com)).
- Pastors are still providing as needed: hospital visits, crisis care and funerals with immediate family only. There will be no funeral dinners or large public gatherings during this time. We hope to gather after this has passed.
- Further updates will be posted on facebook, our website and through email. If you are not already on the email distribution for the Friday newsletters, and would like to be, please email [chesterton.umc@frontier.com](mailto:chesterton.umc@frontier.com).
- Financial offerings and tithes should be mailed to the church or given online. We continue to be disciples who practice faithful giving and generosity so that the

work of our ministries goes on. It is our intent in these four weeks to pay the full salaries of all our staff, including organist and preschool.

Friends, I know there are many emotions for you happening all at once. I feel them also! God is mindful of you and cares for you (Psalm 8:4). Let us be people of prayer and friendship from our homes and online.

Peace to you,  
Pastor Heather