

----- Through The Years -----
May 2020

The Corona Virus Pandemic is certainly dominating our thoughts and actions as we try to minimize the spread of this deadly disease. We, as Methodists, want to do our part in “flattening the curve” of new cases. There is an interesting story from a previous pandemic that shows how our denomination helps out in times of need.

The Spanish Flu Pandemic ravaged the world beginning in 1918. It was particularly lethal in the fall of that year. The city of Tacoma, Washington was especially hard hit. They ran out of hospital space to treat all of the flu patients. On October 16, 1918 the First Methodist Church of Tacoma was converted into a temporary hospital with 200 beds to serve the community. The church building had been closed to worship, as were other institutions in the city. This hospital was fortunately only needed until November as the number of flu cases spiked in the area. The church’s hospital closed, ironically, on November 11, the same day the Armistice was signed to end World War I. The church building then underwent a fumigation and was reopened for church services.

One of the lessons learned from this influenza outbreak was that quarantining or as we call it today, “social distancing” was effective in slowing the spread of the disease. It is a lesson we must all follow today.

While the past is interesting, we must focus on what we face as a world, a nation and as a church today. Mentor United Methodist Church is first and foremost its people. While we cannot be together physically, let’s stay in touch. Let’s continue to watch Pastor Sondra and Pastor Quincy deliver the Sunday services. Let’s also be willing to help out where we can to help our church and community.

We will get through this and will in the future be able to gather as Christ’s people once again. Stay safe and God Bless each and everyone one of you!

Do you have any MUMC history you would like to share with the congregation? Please send it to:

Don Humphrey
7330 Holly Park Dr.
Concord, Ohio 44060-6704

or e-mail to: dhumphrey@ameritech.net