



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mississippi Area + Episcopal Office

Dear Members of the S/PPRC,

Your conference lay leader and I send you greetings during this season of Lent. As we face together the crisis of the coronavirus that is causing pain and suffering to so many around the world and here in Mississippi, we want you to know that we and your Extended Cabinet are praying daily for you, your pastor, the people of your church and communities that God will intervene to bring healing, wholeness and unity to our world.

We are aware that this Pandemic has interrupted the normal pattern of your church's life, especially making it difficult for you to gather as a worshipping community. Be mindful that God still calls us to be faithful in worship, in study, in our financial support of ministry, in caring for each other and our neighbors, and in reaching out to be the hands and feet of God's love and compassion.

We want to encourage you to remember that Jesus promised that His presence would always be with us. We ask that you heed the admonition of our health officials during this crisis and find creative ways to continue encouraging one another in the worship of The Lord. The use of electronic media such as Facebook Live, ZOOM, telephone prayer lines and other means to stay connected in your community of faith are but some models of how you might continue to disciple each other and remain united as a congregation.

Your role in the life of the congregation is to promote unity and encourage, strengthen, nurture, and support the pastor, staff and their families. We encourage you to check on them, to offer prayers and assistance, as ministry continues and may even increase during this time.

Information is rapidly changing, so please check our [website](#) frequently for the latest news.

Our prayers go up for you as you continue to be God's light in your local area. And may you pray for us as well.

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. LaToya Redd Thompson
Mississippi Annual Conference Lay Leader

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