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Rev. Lani Rousseau, Senior Pastor pastor@fumcorange.org

September 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are in major clean-up mode here at the church and getting things ready to gather together for worship face-to-face, with masks, of course. There is lots to be done and only a few of us available in these times of hurricane recovery. Our goal is to be ready for **Worship in the Family Life Center at 10 am, September 27, 2020**. As per our original plan, there will be one service, during this first phase of returning to worship, similar in style to our online service with traditional elements along with some praise music.

We had water intrusion in the Family Life Center through the side door from wind driven rain; ceiling damage in Tow Inn, due to some roof damage caused by the hatch becoming dislodged in the storm and bouncing across the roof; water intrusion in south narthex in the Sanctuary through the front door from wind driven rain; our lamp poles out front and in our courtyard between the chapel and Family Life Center are damaged; the trees within the playground/courtyard area are all leaning from the wind, away from the side of the building. It is minor, but a lot of little things that will need repair. Brown Claybar, head of trustees, was on several walk-throughs with staff and our adjuster, as was David Bridges, Finance chair. I am so grateful for the leadership of our congregation through these challenging times.

We are cleaning up the Malloy Retreat Center in anticipation of recovery mission teams that will soon be coming into the area. The power outage and some A/C issues resulted in a growth of mildew on most surfaces in the building. A cleaning team will be coming in this weekend to tackle that job.

We had two services that were on Facebook "live" on August 30 and September 6, videotaped from my iPhone in my home. Last week we were able to be back with our online format and that will continue even after we return to in-person worship.

We have had several groups of church members go out into the community to help with clean-up efforts. If you need help or have neighbors who need help, please let us know in the church office. Our conference is compiling a database of needs for groups to easily access to help. Several of us have helped up at Faith UMC, which has been an area supply depot. Thank you for

the ways you are reaching out and serving your neighbors during this difficult time. This is what Jesus calls us to do.

Please continue to join me in prayer for all those affected by Hurricane Laura and those who are suffering from COVID-19 and other health related issues. Please continue to pray for Randall Bridges, our youth and communications director, he and his baby son were involved in a car accident returning from evacuation. He is recovering from whiplash and some back injuries. The other driver fled the scene, so they are dealing with all of that mess, too. If you have a specific prayer concern, please let me know.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lani