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Rev. Arun Andrews, Senior Pastor

May 11, 2021

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the Leadership Team, we would like to share an opportunity with you to participate in an offering for India due to the extreme devastation as a result of the coronavirus.

Reports indicate that the need for hospital beds, ICU admissions and oxygen have been hard to meet. The pandemic has reached unbelievable proportions in India with as many as an average of 390,000 new cases being confirmed on a daily basis during the last few days. The death toll at the time of writing this letter has been indicated at 246,000. It has been indicated that these numbers might be conservative in comparison to reality as the counts don't come easy in the context.

Here is a note attributed to an Indian doctor that might help us understand some aspects of the situation on the ground:

"Social distancing is a privilege. It means you have a house large enough to practice it. Hand washing is a privilege, too. It means you have access to running water. Hand sanitizers are a privilege. It means you have money to buy them. Lockdowns are a privilege. It means you can afford to be at home.

Most of the ways to ward off the coronavirus are accessible only to the affluent. In essence, a disease that was spread by the rich as they flew around the globe will now kill millions of the poor. All of us who are practicing social distancing and have imposed a lockdown on ourselves must appreciate how privileged we are. Many in India won't be able to do this."

Pastor Arun is in touch with certain individuals and families who have lost loved ones. The loss has been personal to the Andrews as they have lost friends of many years in their circles of affection in India.

We would like to keep this offering drive open till June 1, 2021. Please make your checks payable to Trinity United Methodist Church with words in the memo line that read: "For India". The offering will be disbursed to churches/ ministries/ agencies/ families with guidance from Pastor Arun.

Let us not forget to pray for all the people of India during this very difficult time. Thank you in advance for your participation in this special offering drive. Together, we believe we can make a small difference in a very large problem.

May God bless you and your gifts.

Shirley Sharpe, Leadership Team Chair The Entire Leadership Team