

FIRST FOUNDATION:

Giving in the Time of COVID

Love in the Time of Cholera is a novel by Colombian Nobel prize winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The novel was first published in Spanish in 1985. An English language movie adaptation was released in 2007. It's a story that has more to do with love than with cholera.

I've thought of the title of this book often during the past nine months of our Covid-affected lives. We've continued doing many things (worshipping, meeting, caring, praying, singing) although in new and different ways than we did a year ago. Our church's life goes on even in the time of Covid.

What about giving in the time of Covid? The reports from our church's finance office indicate we've been faithful givers. Just because we can't see one another across the Sanctuary doesn't mean we don't support one another and our shared ministry.

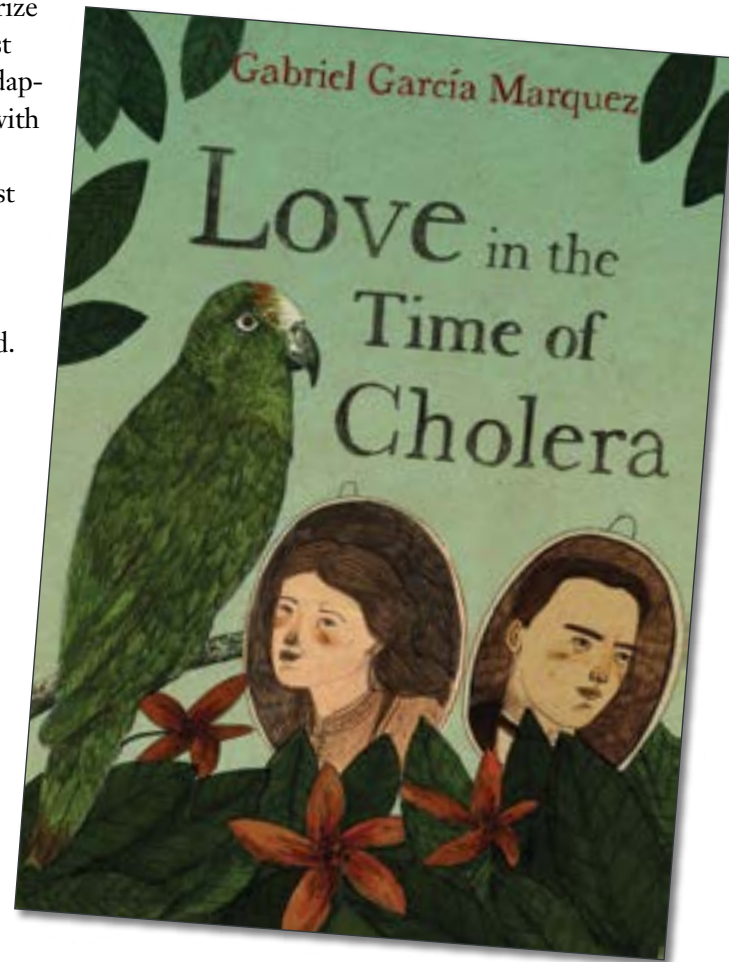
Now we are coming to the end of 2020. Unfortunately, we are not coming to the end of Covid. In a "normal" year, charitable organizations receive an average of forty-one percent of their annual donations between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. Church giving tends to be more evenly spread out during the year. Still, December giving is important to fully supporting the mission of our church.

As you think about your year-end and holiday giving, in addition to fulfilling your financial commitment, please consider a special gift or gifts to First United Methodist Church. Choose one or more First Church ministries that are especially important to you and give an extra gift.

If you want your gift to last beyond this year and even next year, please consider a gift to our First Foundation. First Foundation funds are invested and the proceeds support the ministry or ministries of your choice for a lifetime and beyond. Worship & Music, Christian Education, Mission & Outreach, Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Property Care & Improvement are all funds you can give to before the end of 2020.

We are living in the time of Covid. That we can't change. However, we can give in the time of Covid. That will change lives for the better.

Don Schultz
First Foundation Board Member



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GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS

If you wish to make a gift to last a lifetime and beyond, you may make an undesignated gift for use by the church as needed, or you may designate your gift to one or more of the following funds:

Worship & Music Fund
Christian Education Fund
Mission & Outreach Fund
Property Care & Improvement Fund
Youth & Young Adult Ministry Fund

For more information about First Foundation or guidance in providing for First Church in your estate plan, please contact our Lead Pastor Mark Fowler at 608.234.5189 or mfowler@fumc.org; or First Foundation Board President Krista Tweed at 608.212.7823 or krista.tweed@hbm.com.

The ministries of First Church are furthered by the generous financial contributions given by First Church members, friends, and the FUMC First Foundation. Thank you for your support of our mission to help realize a more loving and just world.