

Faith United Methodist Church
1616 Blue Avenue
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

June Newsletter Deadline: May 21st at 10:00 a.m. | E-mail submissions to: fumcza@gmail.com



May 2020

COVID-19 Update

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

These are truly unimaginable times. If you would have told me a year ago that we would not be meeting for worship except via the internet, I would have politely nodded my head, but never seriously considered it. Yet, here we are. The world is anxious to re-open and get back to business as usual, even though the number of Covid-19 cases have increased much more rapidly, including in our own county, within the last week. While I find myself mostly still in disbelief, I am intrigued at the responses of others. Some have become extremely cautious, never breaking the stay-at-home practice unless absolutely necessary, and then being careful to use a mask and possibly even gloves when going out. Others are kind of taking a laissez-faire attitude, going about pretty much as usual, not caring if they are wearing a mask because they are unconcerned about possibly getting ill; a kind of 'stay home if you are at risk, but I don't need to' system. Still others are on the other extreme of defiance: you have no right to tell me where I can and can't go and it's my right to not wear a mask! Still others believe that the whole thing is a political stunt or an attack from China. Because my job has required me to continue interacting with people, I can tell you that I've not made up any of these responses nor taken them from the news. They are from real life conversations with people within Zanesville!

Last week, our United Methodist Conference issued a plan for re-opening in person worship services. The plan runs congruently with the State's procedures, including abiding by the rules of social distancing and rule of 10 so long as they are in place. When those are lifted, the next phase would include gath-

From the Pastors Desk cont.

ering in groups of 50 or less, while maintaining social distancing, not utilizing bulletins or hymnals, with no responsive readings or singing. The final phase would be resuming services as usual, with an increased sensitivity to health and well-being of the faith community (wear masks, have hand sanitizer available, etc.). This is a process established for the safety and well-being of our congregants. It would be devastating to resume worship services and have the virus spread throughout our congregation. That being said, I cannot wrap my mind around how long it may be before we can gather again. Even when we can gather in groups of 50 or less, what would worship be without responsive readings and singing?

We are taking this one day at a time! I know each of you will have your own perspective and feeling about how we should proceed. I always appreciate hearing from you. It helps me gage the perspectives of others who are a part of the Body I serve. I am hopeful that we can design a skeletal worship crew to enhance the live broadcast we have been doing as an in between step until it is appropriate to gather again as a full community. Please know that I am praying for you! And please continue to lift up one another, along with church and governmental leaders, and those working on the front lines of the pandemic. We serve a God who brings order out of chaos and makes rough places plane. We don't always see how God is working, but, in faith, we know that God is abiding with us and devotedly at work.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joy

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Church Office

The church office will remain closed for the time being. We are checking the voicemail regularly.

Please feel free to contact Pastor Joy 740-221-3653 or Amanda 740-252-6009 with any questions or concerns.



Giving

Even though we are not worshiping within the walls of the church at this time, please remember that we still have bills to pay. Your continued giving during this time is greatly appreciated. Offerings can be sent directly to the church and will be deposited regularly. Thank you for your tremendous love and support.



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women have cancelled all activities through the summer at the church, district and conference levels, this includes the May book club meeting. The Eventide and New Hope Circles will make decisions about meetings as they see fit in the future.



Congrats!

Congratulations to Susie Dunlap on the birth of her newest grandchild! Lena Ray Olson made her arrival 2 weeks early on April 2, 2020.

Prayer List

Jenny Higdon Chacey

Ernie DeGarmo

Steve DeGarmo

P.C. Fitz

Andrew Graham

April Holland

Homeless Community

Eric Howard

Colette Kinder

Betty Miller

Barbara Morris

Billie Jo Munyan

Mike Munyan

Joann Norman

Karen Norman

Parlin Family

Joanne Peterman

Karen Sue Royer

Paula Smith

Logan Wofford

Medical Faith Shut-ins:

Henrietta Hurst

Frances Johnson

Kathleen McCutcheon

*Names will remain
on the prayer list*

*for one month
unless otherwise requested.*

Congregational Affirmation during Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury to work from home
remember those who must choose
between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care
for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

During this time
when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each
other,
let us yet find ways
to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.

~ written by Cameron Wiggins Bell and posted on Faith at Marquette. <https://www.marquette.edu/faith/prayer-for-a-pandemic.php>

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Spotlight on Faith UMC Staff

Have you been wondering what the Faith UMC staff has been up to since we stopped worshiping in the church building? If so, here is the answer to that question.

Roberta Covert, Treasurer

Roberta continues to fulfill all duties related to her position as church treasurer such as paying bills related to the church building and the parsonage. She is also issuing paychecks to church employees. In addition to her church responsibilities, she has spring cleaned her entire house, done some cleaning for Juanita, painted one side of the family room, painted the swirled ceiling, cleaned the wood burner, and worked in the yard when it isn't raining! She has been busy!

Andrew Ferguson, Musician

Andrew has been on the front lines continuing to work at Kroger gathering groceries for pickup. Thank you, Andrew! We appreciate your beautiful music and your work at Kroger helping keep us well fed.

Amanda Hatfield, Administrative Assistant

Amanda has been working from home to accomplish church business that needs to be done. She stops in the church on occasion to print newsletters, etc., and to prepare mailings. She and Jeremy along with her dad have been busy doing some remodeling at home. Their kitchen has a totally new look! She has also been doing some painting in the living room and bedrooms. Of course, Karson and Rayen have been helping, too!

Jordan McKee, Custodian

Jordan has been taking advantage of the empty church building to give it a "deep clean," so everything will be disinfected and sanitized when we are able to return. The Fellowship Hall has been transformed and is now sparkling! The upstairs is next on his agenda. When he isn't cleaning the church, he is resting up for the next room on his cleaning list!



Birthday's

May 6—Ellen Kelton

May 17—Andy Dunlap

May 27—Carlee & CJ DeGarmo

May 29—Jim Tignor

May 31—Kathleen McCutcheon

And the people stayed home

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

by Kitty O'Meara

~<https://www.neighborhooduu.org/pandemic-poetry>

Deuteronomy 31:8

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be disengaged.