



Warrensburg First United Methodist Church

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Living That All May Know Jesus

July, 2020

Vol. XXV

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship with us online
Sunday mornings at 8:30
and 11:00 am
on Facebook at 9:30 am

Warrensburg First United Methodist Church Reopening

Hello Church Family,

After hours of prayer, research, and careful preparation the Administrative Council has made the decision to cautiously and safely reopen the church on July 1, 2020. Balancing the goals of creating a safe environment for our congregation and guests and attending to the spiritual needs of the community, we have developed a plan for reopening that reduces the chance of COVID-19 infection. It is going to be important that we support each other in following these safety practices to maintain a safe environment. We have spent a lot of time reflecting on John Wesley's general rule for Christians to, "Do no harm." We will continue to listen to health care professionals and may need to change our plans based on their future recommendations. Our prayer is that we are able to reopen our church and continue to do no harm to our community and family of faith.

Worship

On July 5, 2020 we will resume in person worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. We have adjusted worship times to allow for plenty of time to clean in between services. Small groups are invited to meet at 9:45 a.m. in between services when they are comfortable doing so.

Our church has worked closely with Johnson County Community Health Services and the Missouri United Methodist Conference to develop safe worship opportunities for our community to connect with Christ and each other. Some of these health practices include:

- Guests will enter the church through the entrances on the North (atrium) and West side (playground) of the church.
- Masks are expected. One will be available if you have none.
- The Jamaica Mission team will offer a temperature scan at the door.
- Guests will go directly to sanctuary door, maintaining social distance as noted by the floor decals.
- Children will remain with their parents during worship because no nursery or children's programming will be available.
- Worshippers will be guided to seats in the sanctuary.
- Immediately following the service, guests will be asked to leave the church building in order to limit the chance of infection.

More information about what to expect on Sunday can be found on our church website.

The health and safety of all attendees is the primary goal as the church resumes services. If for any reason you are uncomfortable attending in person, please feel free to stay home and join us online at 9:30 AM on the church's Facebook page. We will continue to provide online worship going forward.

Small Groups and Outside Groups

Small groups and outside groups of different kinds are invited to resume meeting in the church as long as they follow county health guidelines. We are asking all groups to keep records of who attends their events so that contact tracing is possible if needed. It is going to be important that all groups communicate with our church office in advance for room scheduling and to ensure that we are able to clean effectively afterwards.

Weddings and Funerals

Weddings and funerals will be able to be hosted in the sanctuary following the same procedures as Sunday worship.

Church Office

The church office will resume normal office hours on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

For those are a comfortable gathering together for worship or other events we look forward to reconnecting in person. For those who discern it is important to continue to avoid public events, we will continue to stay connected through phone calls, prayer, and online worship.

As Moses passed on his leadership to Joshua, he encouraged him with these words in Deuteronomy 31:6, “Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.” Joshua led the Israelites to cross the Jordan and enter the land of Canaan. God is calling us to travel to new places and try new things as we continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our community. It may be scary, but be strong, God goes with us.

Pastor Peter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PROPOSAL

As you may know, we have added to our church communications by publishing a weekly news mailing with timely articles and sermon notes from Pastor Peter. We have received suggestions that continuing to publish a monthly newsletter is no longer necessary or may simply be redundant. After prayerful consideration, Pastor Peter, Jim Duncan (Publications Director), and Carol Hassler have discussed the possibility of eliminating the monthly newsletter in favor of a less-frequently published newsletter (annual, semi-annual or quarterly). In that new publication we would focus on things such as the Jamaica Mission, Youth, groups such as UMM or UWM, and so forth. In short, the newsletter would transition to something that would be reflective of the ‘larger picture’ of what our church does in on-going or long-term activities. Call it a “here’s how we are accomplishing the mission to bring others the Jesus” periodic update.

Before we make a decision, however, we feel that it is particularly important to have YOUR input into this process as we do not want anyone to feel like they aren’t part of the process here at First Warrensburg. Please share your thoughts or concerns with the team by calling or emailing Jim at the church (publisher@umcberg.org) by July 15th.

We are eager to hear your thoughts and looking forward to providing an even better newsletter publication and keeping all of YOU up to date on what happens at the church.