



From the Pastor's Heart Information On In Person Worship



My husband attended live-stream worship with me in our beautiful sanctuary on August 16th. It was the first time he's been in the building since mid-March. Afterwards, he said, "I was surprised at how much I enjoyed worshipping in person – I didn't realize how much I have missed it." I suspect ALL of you echo David's thoughts. We long to be together in our sacred worship space. We miss greeting each other in person – singing together, praying together, learning together. We miss being TOGETHER, and I know many of you are wondering when we can gather together again. Keep reading!

In May, our Leadership Council named a Re-opening Task Force (Pastor Tonya, Ted Wray, Tim Meunier, Dawn Doerr, Sara Benedetto, Terri Reynolds and Bob Hirschman) to develop a comprehensive phased approach to re-opening. Our first commitment has always been to re-open as quickly AND safely as possible.

We've met frequently these past 3 months and have weighed things like CDC guidelines and information how COVID19 is spread, the Governor's restrictions on group gatherings, safe sanitization procedures, the number of confirmed cases in Jackson County, and the average age of our congregation.

In July we surveyed your thoughts about re-opening. Thank you to the nearly 190 people who thoughtfully responded to our questions. Here's what we learned:

More than 75% of our respondents are age 65 or older, which puts our congregation in the "high risk" category. Given the significant number of deaths from COVID19 in senior living facilities around the country, the Re-Opening Task Force has chosen to be more cautious with our re-open plans, than are other more "youthful" congregations in our community.

Roughly 30% of you are ready to come back as soon as you can – provided there are appropriate safety precautions in place (like masking and safe distancing).

Another 30% of you will wait until either there is a vaccine available, or the COVID19 cases have diminished significantly in Jackson.

30% of you said you are unsure what you will do.

The rest of you (10%) were all over the map. Comments ranged from "never masking" to "never returning to in-person worship again."

Given all the data before us, Leadership Council has approved the following recommendation for a phase re-opening plan:

During the month of August, all church meetings will be held via Zoom and the Staff are staggering our time in the building so we can maintain safe distancing.

Through September 6th, worship will be live-streamed from the sanctuary – the only persons present in person on Sunday morning will be those leading worship and their immediate family members.

Unless a significant surge of COVID19 cases requires us to reconsider, **we plan to re-open the building for in-person worship beginning Sunday, September 13th**, our official “Homecoming Sunday.” We will gather in the sanctuary for worship; we’ll share Holy Communion (with pre-packaged single serving communion kits). After worship, we’ll move to the Cortland parking lot for a “picnic” with pre-boxed hotdog lunches, provided by Junkyard Dog. (Compliments of the church – no need to bring money). Bring your lawn chairs, so you can safely distance outside and catch up on news with your friends.

To aid in our planning, we ask you to reserve your boxed lunch(es) with the church office and indicate whether you prefer a “turkey dog” or “beef dog.” We need your reservation by email (ddoerr@firstumcjackson.org) or phone (787-6460) no later than Wednesday, September 9th.

Church groups that meet in our building will receive an instruction letter from the church office next week on our new procedures.

As we gather for in person worship again, we’ve enacted the following protocol to remain in effect until further notice:

All will enter through the Welcome Center door off Cortland Ave.

Upon arrival, you will be signed in by a volunteer greeter, who will take your temperature. Please put on hand sanitizer (supplied) when you arrive.

All worshipers will enter the sanctuary from the Welcome Center stairs or elevator. We ask, please do not walk through the church, so we can limit possible touch points and assist our custodial staff in their continued sanitization efforts.

To limit traffic and sanitization efforts, there will be only two restrooms available on Sunday morning (both in the Welcome Center). When possible, we encourage you to “go before you arrive.”

Ushers will assist you to find safe distance seating and pews will be marked. Please do not move or ignore signs on the pews. And unless you live in the same household, we ask you to spread yourself around the sanctuary.

We will all wear masks and practice safe distancing when we’re in the building (which means no handshakes or hugs) for now.

Until further notice, there will be no Hospitality Time after worship.

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Until there's more definitive research available, there will be no congregational singing during worship (but you are encouraged to hum with gusto!)

If you are unwilling or unable to comply with the above expectations, we encourage you to continue worshipping with us via livestream on YouTube.

This plan may seem like "too much" for some, and "not enough" for others. Please know we have prayerfully constructed this phased plan in the spirit of Jesus' command to his followers to, "Love one another." When we gather for in-person worship again, I trust ALL of us will do everything we can to protect each other from harm. My friends, I can't wait to do church TOGETHER again!

In Christian love, *Pastor Tonya Arnesen*

CROP Hunger Walk 2020

As we have found with many aspects of our faith witness this year, the CROP Hunger Walk will look a little different. We will have some type of virtual sendoff with the other churches in Jackson at 1:00 pm on October 11. After that each church will have their own, smaller version of the traditional walk. FUMC plans to have a shorter walk around several downtown blocks near the church that will not involve crossing any high traffic streets. But that is not the only option; you might opt to have a mini CROP Walk around your neighborhood for just your family, or perhaps a neighborhood CROP Walk with a few friends, whatever socially distanced method walkers feel comfortable with. The Youts could have their own walk. For those who want to contribute but choose not to walk, we'll publish instructions next month for making a contribution on-line or for sending a check to the church office. The one thing that has not changed from past years is our commitment to raising funds to fight hunger around the world and right here in Jackson. Twenty five percent of all that we raise comes back to fight hunger in Jackson and 25% of that comes to our After School Pack Program and Fresh Food Initiative.



Beverly & I are extremely grateful for all the church family and friends that sent anniversary cards in celebration of our sixtieth wedding anniversary. We even got one from Albion College. You made our day and you have no idea how much better it has made this day for us. Love to you all!!

Fred & Bev Walters

Our deepest condolences to the families who have recently lost a family member.



July 27, 2020 Inman (Van) Vandry, widow of Meribah Clark-Vandry



New Ensembles Added to our Music Ministry



We have all heard of the saying, “Necessity is the Mother of Invention.” Well, thanks to the pandemic, that is certainly holding true with the Music Ministry of FUMC. After many months of virtual worship, we will finally be having in-person worship starting with our **Homecoming Sunday on September 13**. Once we begin worshipping in the sanctuary, we of course, will want to worship with music. Music adds such a dimension to our worship of God but until there is a vaccine for the virus available, how can you welcome our choirs back into worship? The short answer is, we don’t. As hard as it is know that our choirs will not be able to return this fall, that is simply where we are right now. Of course, we aren’t alone with that realization. Choral arts have been deeply affected all over the world. Choral programs in schools, concert halls and churches have had to come up with alternate ways to share their music.

Here at FUMC, I have had to come up with alternate ways to add music to our worship this fall. Our re-entry committee has given me some guidelines to follow as I look to making music in the next few months. This has led to the formation of a number of small groups that you’ll be hearing in worship starting this fall. I’m grateful to these singers and ringers for their gift of music. These groups will include...

Belle Canto – while this women’s vocal ensemble has presented music in worship since 2006, this will be a reduced group of 6-7 singers (from 10) who you will hear in worship once a month.

Journeyman – A “journeyman” is a skilled craftsman who works under the direction of the “master craftsman.” With God as the “master craftsman,” this new men’s vocal ensemble will share their skills with God and with us in worship once a month. I look forward to being on “the journey” with this new ensemble and the new dimension that they will add to our music ministry and worship.

Genesis – This is the rebirth of our youth vocal ensemble. It has been years since there has been a music group that focused solely on our older youth. This will start as a small group that will rehearse on Sunday nights right before youth group. Hopefully, other participants of our youth group will join us. Genesis will sing periodically in worship and at times will team-up with Belle Canto and Journeyman. I’m looking forward to working with our youth and sharing their music with you in some of our future worship services this fall and winter.

Carillon Ringers – The word “Carillon” is actually the French word for “Chimes.” This two-octave chime ensemble will be comprised of ringers from our Jubilate Ringers and our Chimers Handchime Ensemble. I look forward to adding the sounds of chimes to our worship this fall and am grateful for these ringers who will be sharing their skills with us in worship.

So, I look forward to sharing some new ensembles in worship this Fall. It is good to know that even with the challenges that we are all facing, that there can still be some new and exciting additions to our worship this fall. See you in worship!

Tim Meunier
Director of Music Ministries

September

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	02 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study	03	04 12:00 PM Food for Thought	05
06 10:30AM Virtual Worship	07 12:00PM Food for Thought	08 2:00PM Staff Meeting	09 11:00AM Adult Bible Study 5:30PM Carillon Ringers 6:30PM Journeyman Rehearsal	10 4:30PM Belle Canto	11 10:00AM United Methodist Women—Meeting 12:00PM Food for Thought	12
13 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM Yout Sunday School 5:00PM Genesis Rehearsal	14 12:00PM Food for Thought	15 2:00PM Staff Meeting	16 11:00AM Adult Bible Study 5:30PM Carillon Ringers 6:30PM Journeyman Rehearsal	17 4:30PM Belle Canto	18 12:00PM Food for Thought	19
20 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM Yout Sunday School 5:00PM Genesis Rehearsal	21 12:00PM Food for Thought 5:30PM Leadership Council Meeting	22 2:00PM Staff Meeting 5:30PM Board of Trustees Meeting	23 11:00AM Adult Bible Study 5:30PM Carillon Ringers 6:30PM Journeyman Rehearsal	24 4:30PM Belle Canto 6:00PM Never w/o a Friend—RSVP	25 12:00PM Food for Thought	26
27 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM Yout Sunday School 5:00PM Genesis Rehearsal	28 12:00PM Food for Thought	29 2:00PM Staff Meeting	30 11:00AM Adult Bible Study 5:30PM Carillon Ringers			

Color Coding Key:

Facebook & YouTube

YouTube

Special Location

Zoom

275 W. Michigan

Friends Having Dinner at the Lake

Before the sun sets on another summer the Never Without a Friend ladies friendship group will have dinner on the shore of Wamplers Lake as we dine at Jerry's Pub & Restaurant on September 17th at 6pm. Jerry's is located at 650 Egan Highway, Brooklyn. A car pool will meet at the north end Summit Oaks parking lot (2119 Ferguson Rd) at 5:00 and will depart at 5:05 (We need to get there early to get the tables). Jerry's menu offers many options including appetizers, salads, soups, sandwiches, pizza, and fish/chicken/beef entrees. Please bring your face mask and maybe a jacket, as we will be eating outside, weather permitting. Come join us for a lovely relaxing evening. **NEW FRIENDS ALWAYS WELCOME!** Reservations required by noon September 16th and can be made by calling or emailing Candy Poleski. **WHEN PLACING YOUR RESERVATION PLEASE LET CANDY KNOW IF YOU WANT TO CAR POOL.**



Golf Outing

Brian Clark is putting together a “Golf Gathering” for those interested on Sunday, September 20th with tee times starting at 1:30 pm—2:00 pm at Cascade Golf Course. This will be an informal gathering so please respect “social distancing” and bring/wear a mask. If interested or have further questions please contact Brian Clark .