

Friday, May 22, 2020

Hey UUMC family and community!

I want to thank you for your support and your encouragement over the past 9 weeks. None of us could have foreseen this pandemic. But what we have been reminded of daily, is that our heavenly father has not forsaken us, but drawn us closer than ever.

Many have been asking when will the church reopen? Let me remind you of something, we never closed! We have never been more open than we are right now! We are reaching and engaging more people than ever before! We do not just go to church; we ARE the church! So thank you for joining us online during this time, sharing and re-posting our Worship Celebrations, volunteering at the food pantry, passing food out to North Fork area children, checking in on our community members, shopping local, and so much more! We are still living out our mission and vision of Transforming lives for Jesus by loving God, loving others, and serving the world.

We are as excited as you are, to have in-person worship celebrations once again. Things might look a little different as we return but we want to ensure the safety and health of all of our members and guests.

Here is our Phase 2 In-Person Worship Celebration Plan:

1. We will begin holding in-person Worship Celebrations in our outdoor sanctuary area only. If there is inclement weather, we will cancel the in-person Worship Celebration and hold it online only. We will notify you via Facebook or our Newsletter at least 1 hour prior to the start of the service.
2. The physical church building will remain locked and closed, unless there is an emergency (i.e. a child needs to use the restroom).
3. We will maintain the recommended six (6) feet social distancing guideline in all directions. We ask that you either: Bring your lawn chairs (as bench and bleacher seating will be limited); Or you may worship from your vehicle.
4. Our Parking Lot Greeters will greet you as always with smiles and waves. Please let them know if you plan to worship from your car and follow their direction on where to park.
5. We will be greeting each other with smiles and waves instead of hugs and handshakes.
6. We ask that you visit our church website where there will be song sheets for you to follow along as we will not be passing out bulletins. You may also leave your prayer requests and praises by clicking the link provided on our website. (Visit uticaunitedmethodistchurch.org)
7. We will have a station available for you to place your tithe's and offering instead of passing the offering plates. You may also give online by visiting our website and clicking the "Give" icon at the bottom of the home page.
8. Masks are recommended, but not mandatory.

9. Our nursery, KidZone, refreshment and coffee areas will remain closed until we begin holding our Worship Celebrations indoors again. Feel free to bring your own coffee or donut!
10. If you or anyone in your family who are at a higher risk, lower immune system, sick, have a slight fever, or just do not feel the best, please stay home! You may continue to worship with us online via Facebook live and through our website as always.

In these uncertain times, decisions like these are not easy to make. What I do know for certain, is that we are still very much open, and we have never closed! This season is a time for us to strengthen our relationship with Christ and with our families. James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God, he will draw near to you." I pray that you have used this season to do just that!

And now the news you have been waiting for! We will begin holding in-person Worship Celebrations beginning on June 14th at 10:00 a.m. Remember, if there is inclement weather, we will make an announcement 1 hour prior to the service via Facebook and our Newsletter announcing our Worship Celebration will be online only.

Finally, if you would like to volunteer to help assist us with the Parking Lot Ministry and bringing out the sound system, please contact me immediately. We need you help!

Please continue to pray for your pastor and family, your church, and your community! We love you all so very much!

Blessings,



Pastor Jason Snyder

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