

# PATHWAYS NOVEMBER 2020

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy.

Psalm 16:11

Find us on Social Media @FCCStow!







# Get Out The Vote! Tuesday, November 3

Your vote is your voice!

It is your voice not only for who will be president, it is your voice on issues affecting our state, community, housing, education, employment, and healthcare. Help make a difference and help make your voice heard because by not voting your voice isn't heard!

## **Thanksgiving At FCC Stow**

While we won't be gathering together this year in traditional ways for our usual Thanksgiving time of worship and potluck dinner, may we keep the tradition of giving thanks for our church by all of us taking some time on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> to pause around our tables and consider the thanksgivings and blessings that flow through our church family to our community and beyond. Even when we are apart, God is at work to bring us together in the body of Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

# **Governing Board Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The Governing Board will meet on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. via Zoom. This meeting will include voting on the proposed 2021 church budget.

There will be no Governing Board in December.

# Return to In-Person Worship! Sunday, November 29, 10 a.m.

As we move into the holiday season, and kickoff Advent, we will be offering the opportunity for those who are willing to return to in-person worship on Sunday mornings! Look inside this issue of the Pathways for more information and how you can sign-up!



I am going to break a major rule here. I am going to talk about religion and politics. Yes, I know, it's going to get me into trouble because that's the dinner party etiquette rule you are never supposed to break—even if it is in the

Pastors' Pen of the church newsletter. But if you stick with me until the end my aim is to not make you mad, but to help you press forward with hope and truth.

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A clergy colleague recently said, "Nobody expected this presidential campaign to be a pleasant experience, but I never thought so much of the discourse around it could be so utterly indigestible?"

That's an appropriate discretion, isn't it? This election season has become *utterly indigestible* hasn't it? And when something is this indigestible it doesn't matter what side of the isle you are on, because it seems everyone is angry, everyone is screaming, everyone is ranting. And it's always about what the other side has done or is doing. Rarely, if ever, do I see what their candidate of choice is going to do make things better for all people. I have Facebook friends who ascribe to both major political parties and both sides have been posting rants and arguments and insults and angry diatribes for months, always negative, always angry, rarely constructive. No one, it seems is immune or safe from the indigestibleness of it all.

Now I get it. I am not so naïve, not so stuck in my church-world bubble to expect that niceties are ever going to be normative. Nor am I so meek and mild to think we should not hold candidates accountable for that which we feel is a wrong direction or immoral. Certainly Jesus showed us speaking truth to power is faithful and absolutely necessary. And so we must. But we must do this with the understanding that even those who are on the opposite side of the isle, as the saying goes, are just like us: holy and beloved children of God.

I try exceedingly hard to keep this truth in the forethought of my work. Which is why, for weeks now, most of my sermons have been from texts by the Apostle Paul. I keep going to the epistle

readings of the lectionary because Paul was intently focused on the Church being church. He was working to set up these illegal yet faithful and needed entities so the Good News of Jesus Christ was not only spread, but lived in ways that helped others see and know they are holy and beloved children of God. Paul was working to encourage and guide those who were doing the hard work of being church to know that even despite all the struggle and hardships they were facing as the Church, the work of being church was their God-given call and that it really did mean something. Being the Church meant something important, life changing—and not just to its members but to those it sought to serve.

I'll admit, I am worried about what will happen as Tuesday, November 3rd comes to a close, and what will happen in the days and weeks that follow. I'm not worried because such and such person might win and such and such person might lose. I am worried because countless people are going to feel immense dread and fear and hopelessness because one won and the other lost. I am worried because countless people are going to truly believe they have lost. Which is why the Church must be ready to share its faithful and life giving message with all by remembering that no matter who is elected God is still at work and God's work is always for good. That is the message we must be ready to share for it is a message of hope and it is a message of truth. And it is certainly a message that can be digestible by all.

Let us continue to pray for this election process and all of its candidates. And may we, like Jesus, pray not for our will to be done, but for God's will to be done.

Your Pastor and Friend, Jonathan

### Thursday Evening Book Study Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. via Zoom

The Thursday Evening Book Study continues to meet on Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. Currently the group is studying the book, "Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us" by Presbyterian Pastor, Layton E. Williams. While this study began on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, it's not too late to join in the discussion. Head over to the church website and check out the "Book Study" tab for more information and chapter synopsis, along with message board postings. This will get you all caught up!

Note the audio version of this book is available on Hoopla—a free library loan site/app. Head to the website or app and create an account using a local library card. Again, it's free!

This book study will be held each Thursday at 7 p.m. and will meet for 6 weeks but we will, of course, be off on Thanksgiving. Please contact the church office or Jonathan for the Zoom link.

#### Help Return to In-Person Worship

As we look to return to in-person worship it will be an imperative that our building is prepared to host those who will gather. But this important work will require a broader cleaning regiment than what is normal from our custodians. It will also require people who are willing to welcome, host, and direct those who will come for worship on Sunday mornings.

To do this work the Elders are looking to create a team of folks who are willing to coordinate, facilitate, and implement the policies and procedures needed to make in-person worship happen.

If you are willing to be a part of this important team please reach out to the church office, Jim Hindel or Jonathan and let them know. Anyone can be part of this team and your participation will be immensely appreciated!

# Church Workday Saturday November 14th 9:00 am.

Main project: leaves and outside cleanup for winter. Bring leaf equipment (rakes, tarps, blowers, gloves and a smile covered with a mask).

Rain date - Sunday November 15th 1;00 pm. Check Facebook for update.

#### **ATTENTION ACME SHOPPERS**

Save those Acme receipts!

This year's campaign It only runs thru the end of December, a mere 2 months left. Put your receipts in a safe place and we will be collecting them later in the year. Thanks for your help.

### Youth Group in November November 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>

The Youth Group will meet on consecutive Sundays, November 1st and 8th to work on and pack care kits, while discussing what they are, who they are for, and why they are needed. Additionally on these Sundays we will play arousing game of Genius-Ball that will require both academic aptitude and athletic prowess! Ok, truthfully, it will require very little athletic ability. (But hint: You might want to find out where Jonathan went to college and seminary!) For both of these meetings please come to the church at 11:30, bring a lunch and be ready for a grand time! Youth Group will conclude at 1 p.m.

Then on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> we will once again help out the Outreach Team with the Ingathering Christmas Outreach program by doing some shopping for this important ministry that every year serves dozens of families in need of a little help to make Christmas merry and bright by providing food and gifts.

We will MEET AT the Stow-Kent Target at 11:30 a.m. to do the shopping then we will call parents for rides when we are about to check-out.

Please note we understand if students/parents would prefer to not take any unnecessary trips out into the public. Please let Jonathan know if you would be willing to do some online shopping for this ministry to help secure those things Target won't have. And please consider making a contribution to the church for the "Christmas In-Gathering Outreach Ministry" making checks out to the church and put this notation in the memo. Even a little bit can go a long way to making a brighter Christmas for someone.

## November/December Junior Church: At-Home Edition

Junior Church activities for the Advent & Christmas season will be available for pickup beginning Sunday November 22nd. Pull up to the ramp to pick up your advent calendars and activity kits from the Junior Church bin right outside the main doors. Be sure to stop by and grab yours! While you're here grab one for family, friends and neighbors!:)

# Cleveland Clinic Faith Based Leader Forum Holiday Edition

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, Noon, via Zoom
As we embark upon the 2020 holiday season the
COVID-19 pandemic presents unprecedented challenges
to holiday traditions. It's important for us all to imagine
new ways of doing the things that have sustained us
throughout generations in order to keep everyone safe
and healthy. Faith leaders are in a unique position to help
lead their congregations through this adjustment. There is
an opportunity now for creativity, strengthened
relationships, and more meaningful interactions.

In the last Faith-Based Leader forum of 2020, participants will be able to contribute in interactive breakout sessions, share in a moment of remembrance of loved ones lost in 2020, learn how to navigate the grief process associated with those losses, and discover new ways of carrying out family traditions.

Please join us virtually on Thursday, November 5 from 12 - 1 p.m. for a discussion with Rev. Dr. Amy Greene Director, Center for Spiritual Care at the Cleveland Clinic; Chivonna Childs, PhD Counseling Psychologist, Center for Behavioral Health at the Cleveland Clinic; James Merlino, MD Chief Clinical Transformation Officer at the Cleveland Clinic; and Anthony Warmuth Executive Director, Quality Administration at the Cleveland Clinic.

Breakout sessions include: Change in Traditions and Sacred Services, Safely Gathering & Exchanging Gifts, and Holiday Travel.

For further information, please call (216) 448-0607 or email gcr@ccf.org

## <u>Special Guest Speakers from Stow Bulldog Bags</u> Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Stow Bulldog Bags is an all-volunteer-managed, community, non-profit business that seeks to reduce food insecurity in children in the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District and is led by Laura Root and Jan Mather, among many others. FCC Stow has supported Bulldog bags since its inception and we are thrilled to be welcoming this great organization to speak to us during worship in Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bulldog Bags - Monthly Offering**

We continue to collect items monthly as well. There is a plastic bin in the outside entry of the church marked Bulldog donations. The bin is for easy drop off of the monthly items we are collecting for bulldog bags.

We are collecting

Individual Cereal Cups due November 11 Hot chocolate packets due December 9

# How do you do Ingathering during a Pandemic????

While the definition of Ingathering is to "gather together": during a pandemic we have to make changes to avoid gathering too many together. We want to keep church members and the families we serve safe while still filling a vital mission in the community. Because it is such a vital mission, we will again be serving families in our community with food boxes, a gift card for fresh items, and gifts for the children. The distribution for families will change and be more spread out to avoid too many folks here at one time, masks and gloves will be required and time for each family in the church will be limited. We reluctantly decided that no home baked cookies can be dispensed, but perhaps someone may be compelled to purchase a bag of candy for each of our families?

We have already received 35 families from the schools and more may be added as resources allow. And YOU, the congregation, are our greatest resource!!! If you are willing to shop (online is A-OK), sponsor a family or make a donation to help cover a family, or a food box or a gift card, please contact Ann Halpin You can reach Ann at 330-524-2228, 330-686-1844 or <a href="mailto:inahalpin@sbcglobal.net">inahalpin@sbcglobal.net</a>. You can send any contributions directly to the church marked "Ingathering". Thank you for your help in making this Christmas the high point of an often frustrating and stressful year for many of these families.

Please donate food items for our Ingathering food baskets. The list is included in Pathways. There is a wagon near the door of the Church for contributions. Monetary donations are always welcome! Give a little-give a lot! We are grateful for your support!

## **Loaves and Fishes**

On Sunday, November 15, our monthly meal will be distributed from 4-6 pm in the lower lot turnaround. We are providing a hot Thanksgiving meal for those who come through the drive thru. Many members are stepping forward to make turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetables and dessert. Contact Susan Naylor if you would like to help cook. Contact Mary Ellen Neitz to help on Sunday.

A flier went to each family at Trunk or Treat and we expect a large turnout. Come and lend a hand!

# "The Colors of Christmas" Light Display— A Community Event Tuesday, December 15th, 5-8p.m.

A Community Tour Celebration of *The Colors of Christmas!* is set to take place on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. This will be your chance to journey across the City of Stow and experience the joy of Christmas as local churches provide festive lights, live nativities, singing and more to help make your holiday season merry and bright.

Our church will be among the area churches participating in this event, and the Membership Team is coordinating our display, however anyone interested in helping plan and create the display is welcome to do so. Do you have some working Christmas lights you could loan or even donate? Or maybe you have some ideas for how we can decorate the portico for our display. Please reach out to Jonathan or Cora Dowey to let them know!

This event is sponsored by the City of Stow and the Stow Parks and Recreation. A map of participating churches will be on the City of Stow's Website in early December.

## Thank You

I have appreciated all the cards and phone calls I have received during my recovery. Please continue your prayer to relieve the pain. Thank you.

**Janet Cummings** 

Thanks to everyone for your kind words, prayers, and best wishes. I have received to many lovely cards and really want to thank everyone. I have a long road to go, still, so I will be glad to continue to hear from everyone. (For now, please send to home address.)

Janet Howard

#### **Trunk or Treat 2020**

We had a fun afternoon at Trunk or Treat last Sunday! Despite the chilly day, over 80 children and their families stopped by to trick-or-treat in the church parking lot and grab a quick picture at the Fall Photo Booth. Thank you to everyone who hosted a trunk and donated candy to make this another successful community event!! Anna & Richelle



### from the Music Department

Hello
There's not much to
report right now from

the music department. Bab Eppley is playing another bell solo on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and Andrea and I will continue to hold down the fort, musically speaking. If anyone wants to play or sing a solo some Sunday, please let me know at <a href="mailto:ckobb@att.net">ckobb@att.net</a>. It doesn't have to be fancy, or complicated. A simple hymn sung from the heart will do.

Missing all of you. In Christ, Chuck

### <u>Sunday Sermons and Pastoral Prayers</u> <u>Available By Snail Mail</u>

If you or someone you know would like printed copies of the Sunday sermons and pastoral prayers sent via snail mail please let the church office know. We will be glad to mail copies to anyone who would enjoy reading the pastor's message.

We are also including weekly inspirational and fun letters in these mailings.

Also note that all sermons and prayer are also available on our church website, and videos of weekly worship services are always available at our church's Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

#### **Ingathering Food List**

Boxed	Potatoes	Cake mix
Fruit o	r Applesauce	Icing
Jello o	r pudding	Juice
Meat or stew Mac & Cheese		Rice
Peanu	t butter	Pasta
Spagh	etti Sauce	Vegetable
Tomato products Velveeta style cheese		le cheese
er		
	Fruit o Jello o w Mac & Peanu Spagh oducts	Peanut butter Spaghetti Sauce oducts Velveeta sty

# The 2021 Narrative Budget Narratives Stewardship Team

As we aim to conclude this year's Consecration Campaign, we wanted to provide you a recap of the narrative budget narratives shared during worship in October. We heard from just three of the numerous groups and ministries that are supported and impacted by our church budget and your generous support of it. Below is what those groups shared.

And be sure to check out Jonathan's sermon from October 25<sup>th</sup> that also addressed how our giving has an impact on the ministries of the church along with our spiritual lives and faith formation.

#### **Cub Scout Pack 3169**

### **Kurt Westover, Pack Committee Chairperson**

Cub Scouting helps to support families by providing opportunities for scouts and families to do things together.

Cub Scout-age youth benefit developmentally from belonging to a group their own age. Through this sense of belonging, scouts build self-esteem and learn to get along with others.

77 years ago, Pack 3169 was charter at the Stow Community UCC. The Pack grew until they were too big for the UCC. In 2017, the Pack moved to First Christian Church of Stow.

The Pack has from year to year about 30-60 Cub Scouts.

We have about 12-15 leaders from year to year.

Our pack is set up as a family scouting pack, meaning, we have both dens of girls and dens of boys. Each den is arranged by school grades. In a typical year, the pack will go on two family camp outs, Summer camp and day camp, Webelos den camp outs, Pine wood derby, Blast cars that use co2 cartridges, hiking, fishing, model rockets, adventures to earn belt loops and make ranks, sing songs and perform skits, blue and gold celebration of scouting, and most importantly for the scouts, rank advancement.

The pack also performs some community service. We planted at the school, cleaned up sticks at FCC along with weeding and laying mulch by the lower drive circle of the church.

Cub Scouting is proven to develop positive character traits in children. Baden Powell said, "The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others."

We could not function without our charter with first Christian church. With your help via the charter we are able to meet as a pack and help guide these youth. If you'd like to know more about scouting go to the SCOUT ME IN link at scouting.org. To learn more about the Cub Scout Pack at First Christian, visit pack3169.com.

# Helping Those With Food Insecurities Mary Ellen Neitz

Good Morning. Thank you for the opportunity to share an update on Loaves and Fishes, our monthly community meal. But before I get to that, I want to include some other organizations who are concerned with feeding people and providing for their basic needs. Let me bring you up to date on some of the groups Outreach supports and how they continued to serve despite the challenges this year has presented.

Family Promise altered the way that homeless families were being served during the pandemic but I'm happy to say that Glendora House continues to host two families. Our Church is responsible for the funds that had a room completed as Family Promise was the recipient of the first Chalice Grant a few years back. Work is underway to get more rooms completed in this facility so more families can be housed.

Bulldog Bags continued to make Bulldog Boxes available for pick up during the Summer. A special collection in September and early October raised \$1555 through the generosity of this Church. Schools are open enough to start distribution of Bulldog Bags. We are collecting pudding cups this month as our church's item.

Next we will be continuing our Christmas Ingathering program to provide for families at Christmastime. I anticipate the need will be greater than ever this year. At this point we are waiting for the schools to respond with names. We provide gifts for the children as well as a box of groceries and a grocery store gift card. We

have put a wagon at the door of the Church on the upper level for food contributions. There are food lists there. Please consider adopting a family or contributing to this worthy endeavor.

Now, I invite you to picture this...Stow, Ohio March 15 4:00p.m, the time of COVID 19. The first cases of COVID were diagnosed the week before. There are 37 cases of COVID in Ohio. Unbelievable things have been happening. The governor is on TV every day! Frightening predictions, schools are closed, there is talk of quarantine. The rumor is that restaurants will close at the end of the day, and by 6 p.m. they have.

Where was I? It was a Loaves and Fishes day and we were serving about twenty people a meal. Bill Johnson set up the serving area. He filled the plates and handed them directly to the guests. He encouraged them to choose lunch items we had purchased for the coming week so they could feed their kids at this unexpected "vacation" time.

April did not feel safe. Diagnosed cases had climbed. There were now over 500 deaths in Ohio. Everyone was worried and confused. People were wearing masks. We were social distancing but I was afraid. We cancelled the meal. (Only one other time we had cancelled due to bitter cold and snow). I worried about the people who might have come but found locked doors and a sign.

In May Bill Johnson was asked to undertake a new plan. He and his lady Marjorie formed a new plan for a drive through meal distribution in the lower lot on the third Sunday from 4-6p.m. Masks were required on the workers. Gloves were worn. Social distancing was respected. The meal was simple ,a choice of sub, chips, water and a cookie. Everything was wrapped and zip locked. He and Marjorie prepared subs for a hundred people. Sixty people showed up. The extra subs went to local places to be distributed.

Every month we showed up and every month more cars showed up. More people were fed. A woman began dropping day old bagels off early on that Sunday and we bagged them and offered them with the meals. The Vineyard Church began to pass out fliers with the food they gave out twice a month. Bill sent notices of the meal to area Churches.

In August the last car had to wait while the pasta finished cooking. Last month we almost ran out of chicken but I had faith there would be enough. I asked the congregation for brownies and we had brownies left over to freeze. This month I asked for cookies, and I have every confidence we will have an abundance. This month someone donated extra-large cans of ravioli so no one will leave without food.

Did I mention that we are putting these meals on for about \$1.50 a person? It is a different meal every month planned by whoever is cooking. There is no charge of course!

Today is October 18th. The pandemic is still here. There is still uncertainty and fear but we have adapted and adopted a plan. At 4:00 this afternoon a new cook has provided barbecued chicken, baked potatoes and green beans. Thank you Barb Bell! How many will come? Who knows? My guess will be 100.

From 20 in February to 100 in October! I know the faithful workers are weary. I hope they know how appreciated they are! I know many of you listening wish there was something you could do to serve right now. I invite you to join us!

These lyrics are from a song I love, "When I was hungry you gave me to eat! When I was thirsty you gave me to drink! Now enter into the home of my Father! Whatsoever you do for the least of my children that you do unto me!"

Thank you and God bless you!

## A New Partnership With The Akron Food Bank

#### **Tom Safford**

As a church we are always looking for ways to expand our outreach. During the current pandemic, with its accompanying economic problems, the level of food insecurity in our community, and the nation as a whole, has increased dramatically.

Prior to March 2020 our sit-down Loaves and Fishes meal was serving about 20 people each month. Since then we have switched to a drive-thru model with pre-cooked meals. We are now serving over 100 people each month.

But that's just one meal. How can we serve these people better?

We are now in the process becoming a Food Pantry associated with the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. This will give us access to many shelf-stable food items, such as pasta, canned vegetables, crackers, etc., at no cost or a very reduced cost.

We can use these items to prepare take home packs for each family, which will enable them to cook additional meals beyond our one free meal.

Our current outreach team is stretched very thin. Between Loaves and Fishes, Christmas Ingathering, and Family Promise they are doing all they can. Also, we do not want to fund our food pantry by decreasing our outreach budget in other areas. We don't want to rob Peter to pay Paul.

How big will our Food Pantry get? How many people will we serve? That depends on the response of our church members. We need additional people to help with this pantry, both with their time and with their money. The more we receive, the more we can give.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Technology and Streaming Upgrades Anna Lloyd

Over the past 6 months we have had the opportunity to make some significant church website and media presence upgrades and livestreaming improvements. The church email and web hosting has been migrated to an improved hosting service, new & improved Wi-Fi access points have been installed throughout the church, our updated website has gone live and of course we've jumped right into the streaming world live streaming Worship each Sunday. None of this would have been possible without the support of our congregation and our tech support talent here at the church.

When we began streaming in March many of you would have laughed along with us to see our emergency streaming setup of two tripods set up / extension cords & audio cables running through the sanctuary / and a pair of extra speakers sitting on a music stand to get them as close as we could to the iPhone's to pick up — but what we threw together worked and we were able to worship together on Sunday mornings while plans were made for improvements.

With the support we received and some help from our friends at Ashton Sound we were able to increase our internet speed, and add some new tech equipment and streaming software over the summer to upgrade our livestream experience. At the same time the work was happening to improve our email and web hosting and publish our new website – if you haven't had a chance be sure to head to firstchristianstow.org to check it out, you will find the church calendar, Sermon text, a secure online giving page, the monthly Pathways Newsletter and more.

Thank you to everyone who has supported through their talents and those who have contributed financial gifts towards these projects. With these improvements we no longer had to very carefully zoom in/out on those 4-inch phone screens or make sure those extra speakers were propped up just right to get sound. Now we have a much better audio/video experience when you log in to worship via Facebook Live at 10am each Sunday!

As many of you know we started to experience some technical difficulties last Sunday, but as Jonathan said last week "In the hands of a lesser technical crew it may have been later than 10:04 when we joined you on Facebook Live."

Thank you to everyone who helped make that happen behind the scenes. It's already in the works to get everything back to that improved sound and video as soon as we can.

Here is the link to: "God In The Wilderness" sermon from October 25, 2020: https://www.firstchristianstow.org/sermons/god-in-the-wilderness/

#### <u>Guidelines for Returning to In-Person Church Services</u> FCC Elders and Pastor

We are excited to announce a ramp-up of in-person worship services. The Elders have been prayerfully considering how and when to make this happen since we began our online services in March. The strategy has been to err on the side of caution and ensure the safety of all members while providing options that meet everyone's spiritual needs. The online service will continue to be available and we ask that you worship from home if you are in a high-risk or vulnerable group, are sick, symptomatic or recently exposed to COVID-19 or if you have any reservations about attending a service in person.

We continue to explore how it impacts the church, its members and guests, and how God is leading us to be church and have church in this uncertain time. In our most recent conversations we have come to recognize that while all members desire to experience church in person, some are willing to do so sooner than later, even given current statues for our county. This reopening, however, will still require us to adhere to, and follow strict reopening procedures.

Therefore, in accordance with the plan published in the August Pathways we will follow the procedures for Status Condition 3, which are outlined here:

#### **Status Condition 3**

Status Condition 3 consists of streaming and recording services with the people needed to present the service in the church. (What we are currently doing.) In addition we will have a non-participating congregation of up to 20 family units. A family unit is defined as those who are living in the same household.

Those who attend must agree to abide by the following conditions:

- Be seated by a Return to Worship Team Member.
- Maintain a 6 foot distance from others while in the building.
- Do not shake hands or hug one another.
- Masks required for everyone over the age of 4
- Families seated together based on social distancing protocols.
- Children will remain with their families throughout the service.
- Bulletins will not be available.
- Singing will be limited to one person on the chancel.
- Use of either personal or disposable communion elements.
- Offering to be dropped in the baskets in the back of the sanctuary.

#### Congregation activities are limited to the following:

- Praying
- Listening to the sermon
- Children's Sermon (staying seated)
- Watching the screens
- Verbally responding to the Lay Leader's Peace Message

#### The following activities cannot occur:

- Hugging and other physical contact between those not in your family unit.
- Sharing of common items such as offering plates and communion trays
- Singing
- Junior Church
- Coffee Hour
- Receiving Line

# Anyone who has any symptoms of COVID- 19 should remain home. Per the CDC these are the symptoms of COVID- 19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

#### **In-Person Attendance Reservations**

Reservations for in-person attendance can be made via the Sign-up Genius link at the church website, or by calling the church office. Leave a message if you get the voicemail and someone will return your call to confirm your reservation. Please indicate how many will be attending in your "family unit." This plan also leaves room for walk up worshipers.

#### Help, Safety, Prayers

In order to safely host and accommodate all who wish to be part of in-person worship, we are asking those who plan to attend to consider serving on an ad-hoc "Return To Worship" team that will help facilitate and implement the needed cleaning and coordination. Please indicate your willingness to serve on this team to either Jim Hindel or Jonathan.

It is our impetrative focus to accommodate all attendees while maintaining an environment that is safe for all. As with every service, attendance is purely voluntary.

And lastly, we invite you to continue to hold of this in your prayers. Please pray God continues to lead and guide us all in being the church God is calling us to be.