



First United Methodist Church
504 Jackson Street
Reynoldsville, PA 15851
(814) 653-8593

September 22, 2020

Dear friends and family in Christ,

Today is the first day of Autumn, with cooler temperatures, an earlier sunset each evening and a later sunrise each new morning. As we begin another season of the year with many precautions and restrictions still in place, the Safety Team and the Church Council have decided it is time to move to a modified Phase 2 of our COVID-19 Re-opening Plan.

Therefore, beginning on Sunday, October 4th, we will begin holding our 8:15 communion service each Sunday in the sanctuary. This will be very much the same service as we held previous to the COVID-19 restrictions. We will continue to use sealed individual communion elements for this weekly service just as we have been using for the “drive-in communion services” we have been hosting in the parking lot since the beginning of July. For those who desire to attend the 8:15 communion service each week, we are asking that you sit ONLY on the Jackson Street side of the sanctuary and that you sit ONLY where “household places” are marked with goldenrod colored paper. Please, do not look for friends to sit with, but sit only in a “household” space with your immediate family. The 8:15 service will not be recorded or livestreamed on Facebook.

We will continue to livestream the 10:45 service each week on Facebook, and links to those recordings will continue to be posted on our church’s website as we have been doing since mid-March. We continue to encourage those who are able to participate in worship from home via the livestreaming to do so. But we also ask those who want to attend the 10:45 service to sit ONLY on the Gordon Alley (Sunday School area) side of the sanctuary in “household places” as marked with goldenrod colored paper.

Finally, beginning on Sunday, October 4th, we will also provide 3 options for Adult Sunday School. During this phase, there will not be classes for children. We are not yet prepared to reopen Sunday School for the children because of our concern for these most vulnerable and precious ones. We currently feel there is still too high a risk for the spread of COVID-19 and that it would be difficult to ensure the children follow all the requirements for physical distancing as well as wearing a mask. However, for any of you with children who would like the option for them to attend Sunday School, please contact me or the church office so we can work towards arrangements to make this option available.

Options for Adult Sunday school will be as follows: Wendy Watt will be teaching a class upstairs in the Sunday School area for those who would like to attend. This will be in place of the individual upstairs classes. Burt Heise will be teaching the Men’s Bible Class in Thornton Hall. Barb Holcombe will be leading the FaithLink class, meeting in the children’s Primary

area downstairs. All of these classes will utilize physical distancing and all attending are asked to wear masks.

Masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves continue to be available to all who need or desire them. We will continue to maintain a weekly contact list of all who attend each service, along with requiring everyone to wear masks and checking body temperatures with non-contact thermometers upon entry into the building. In order to simplify this check-in process, we do request folks use the entrance facing the parking lot as much as possible.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude to the Safety Team and the Church Council for the careful consideration of ways in which we may continue to “do church” which are both accessible and safe in an uncertain time. None of us have ever lived through a pandemic before and so we are striving to navigate these uncharted waters together.

By His Grace,

Pastor Tom