

The Window

On a journey with the living Christ; connecting with God, others, and the world.

June 2020

A TIME TO GATHER by Andy Hamer, Pastor

I can think of no period in my lifetime that congregations had a stronger need to gather for prayer, discussion, and comfort. Many in our congregation have lived to see times that were perhaps more tumultuous, but 2020 is on pace to make its way into history books. In the midst of an intensifying global pandemic and economic uncertainty, simmering racial tensions have exploded all across our country. Unfortunately, in the midst of all this, we cannot gather as a body – at least, not in the way we want to. What follows is an attempt to address these issues, but also an encouragement to continue in whatever ways possible to share the bonds we have in Christ.

In the midst of these national struggles, we find our nation caught without a shared narrative – we struggle to even agree on the reality of our situation, much less to productively debate it. We find it difficult to make decisions even about health concerns without regressing into unhelpful political stereotyping. I was struck by this at a recent Zoom meeting with other pastors. As we discussed how we might best approach decisions regarding a return to in-person worship, I was surprised to hear concerns about congregations dividing along political lines. Thankfully this did not occur during the recent discussions of West Hills' Ministry Teams and Elders. Nevertheless, the episode drew my attention back to the fact there are increasing pressures that divide our society and even our faith communities.

In the coming weeks it will be more important than ever for us to remember that we are a family in Christ. We remain a family in Christ when we engage with prayer and thoughtfulness. Our unity does not require silence about difficult issues. We share grievances and listen. We listen to the Spirit and to each other. We remember that blood holds a family together. In this family of faith, we are bonded by the shed blood of Christ that has saved each of us from ourselves.

As we wrestle with coronavirus responses, economic stresses, and societal injustice, my hope is that we will continue to engage with one another in every way possible. We need to share our griefs. We need to help



each other as we delicately sift through our confusion and frustration. We need to hear each other. We need to hear the voice of God speaking in the Body of Christ. We also need to continue to listen for what it means to bring the Kingdom of God to bear in this new context in which we are living.

One of the beautiful things about this congregation is her history of incarnational engagement. May it continue to be a key piece of our identity. Jesus came into our world to meet us as we are and address the deep concerns of our human context. Jesus' followers are sent just as he was – to be incarnational. We need to encourage each other as we discern our call to engage the deeply concerning realities of our current context. This is an individual calling (to our everyday spheres of influence), but also a communal calling. Our Ministry Teams are now considering how we might engage in prayer and dialogue as a congregation, and how we can work with our current mission partners.

In the meantime, may we find the spiritual maturity to commend those with the strength to bring injustices to light through non-violent protest, and to commend the authorities who carry out orders to serve and protect with respect for all. May we honor those followers of Christ who feel called to stand on both sides of the barricades, and especially those who find the humility to kneel together across the lines. *continue to page 2*

A TIME TO GATHER, continued

Resumption of In-Person Activities

Of course, our discussion of these weighty matters would be easier to have in person. We're all looking forward to those days. So why did our Session choose not to resume in-person activities at this time? Certainly, the health of the congregation and the larger community loomed large in our decision making. Health experts continue to assert that gathering large groups of people indoors at the height of a pandemic is irresponsible. Even as I write this on the first day of June the data show that Douglas County is experiencing an uptick in new cases. The final week of May saw the largest one week jump in new cases since the outbreak began. We may be entering the resurgence that health officials predicted would accompany the relaxing of health restrictions.

In light of these health safety concerns as well as issues of inclusivity and the quality of our worship experience, the Session voted to begin in-person worship services when we reach "Phase 3" of the plan created by CDC officials, known as, "Opening Up America Again". Phase 3 is the point at which "Vulnerable individuals can resume public interactions but should practice social distancing". This will be more likely to occur several months from now. See more details in the Session Report on page 10 and 11 of this newsletter.

This decision came only after our Ministry Teams worked for weeks to draft a plan to begin in-person activities. I am deeply grateful for the hours our teams put into this draft. A majority of this version of the plan focused on steps to begin in-person worship at **Phase 1**. It was actually the nature of this draft that helped the Session determine our current course, i.e. to instead begin worship at **Phase 3**. This draft helped us more fully grasp the dangers of resuming in-person activity too soon, and the complexities of actually following all of the guidelines from health officials. For that reason, the Session thought it might be helpful for others in the congregation to see some of this rejected draft. As you read the rejected draft on pages 10-11 of this newsletter, please remember that Session unanimously agreed that it was **not** in

the best interest of West Hills in terms of health safety, inclusivity, and the actual experience of worship. It describes what worship **would** have looked like if we had chosen to begin in-person worship while coronavirus risks are high.

It bears noting that the even this rejected draft did not consider gathering for in-person activities during our current situation, i.e. as the risks continues to grow. Friends, we all miss being in the presence of our family of faith. We miss the handshakes and the hugs. At one time or another most of us have desired to abandon the guidance of health experts and our own self-preservation. I pray that our love for one another and our love for our neighbors in this city will be sufficient motivation to stay the course.



CAMP EVEREST VB-YES!

This year, we are bringing Camp Everest to your backyard! Some of you may remember back in 2015, West Hills did the Everest theme for VBS. This year, we are revisiting this theme with our own backyard twist. Let's talk about how this works!

- You will reserve your family's VBS Backyard in a box **by June 4th** by going to whcomaha.org/events
- You will pick-up your box from the north circle drive at West Hills (Spring St. & 80 Ave.) on either of these dates/times:
 - Wed, June 17 between 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
 - Thurs., June 18 between 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- The box will be filled with directions, daily activities and the supplies you need to complete them

This box is available for you to reserve for your own family or your grandkids! Maybe you even have a neighbor or friend you would like to bless with this adventure. If you have any questions feel free to email vbs@whcomaha.org. See you on the mountain top!

THE CHURCH IN MINIATURE by Mary Jirak, Deacon of Groups



Covenant group, Small group, Connection group... how about Zoom group? Whatever name you want to give it, it can mean the same thing – an opportunity to fellowship with other West Hills members as we gather together to encourage each other, grow in our faith, in our understanding of God's Word, and to support each other through caregiving and prayer.

As I think about what we experience being in a small group, it occurs to me we are actually practicing "the church in miniature." (A long time ago, the sign in front of West Hills stated: "Where every person is a minister.") I have been so encouraged by how well we have continued with the many ministries of West Hills during this surreal time in our lives. I see it in the depth and quality of our online worship, in all the amazing ministries still happening with our youth, in the faithfulness of our prayer warriors, in our check-in calls with each other, and in the faithful giving to our mission partners and to our church. A small group can be an opportunity to go deeper and minister to each other in an even more personal way.



None of us have experienced all the uncertainty that we are currently living with right now. But we have faith in a God who is even larger than

a global pandemic: faith in an unchanging God in an ever-changing world. We don't know what the future will bring or how long we will need to "social distance" from each other, but if you are not already in a small group, or you are in a group that has currently stopped meeting, I would like to encourage you to consider becoming part of a Zoom group. This can be a wonderful opportunity during our time apart to be able to see with our eyes and hear with our ears the blessings God continues to provide us through our West Hills family.

We have many resources available in the small group resource room at West Hills and as Deacons of Groups, Candy Glasgow, Leann Schaffer and I would be happy to support you in forming a group or any way we can. I know Heather Hipp would be happy to provide technical support in getting your group set up on Zoom. We look forward to hearing from you! Email heather@whcomaha.org to be assigned to a small group today.

SPIRITUAL CORRESPONDENCE by Jana Prescott

"Trust Me one day at a time."
(In Jesus Calling, March 18) I happened to read this on the day when I needed it the most; I'm sure all of you think this often, too. These are words we all need: trust Jesus, constantly, but especially at this time in our lives, with all that's happening worldwide. But I think we also need to remember to trust each other, too. While each one of us is doing our small part to keep everyone we think about, city-wide, country-wide, planet-wide, healthy and whole, we always have, and we always will, keep in our hearts all that God put there: each person we know personally and each person we know because they know Christ. Keep this truth in your heart: Christ hasn't chosen us to pray because He thinks we can; He has chosen us to pray because He knows we can.



GOD HAS A PLAN

The other day I was listening to various newscasters and the people they were interviewing, who were lamenting over the current situation "taking so long" and projecting that the coronavirus wouldn't be ending "for several years." They were consistently filled with doom and gloom. These scare tactics can put some people in a land of limbo! With all the finger-pointing on who is to blame, who knew what first, where this virus originated, etc., it can almost appear comical!

Around that same time I was reading through a book I had just ordered: **Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible** by Dr. David Jeremiah, and opened to a page I'm sure God directed: Genesis 50:20-21. It is the chapter which I'm sure you are all familiar when Joseph confronts his brothers, after their father Jacob had died, and says to them: "As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people's lives. Now therefore, do not be afraid." According to Dr. Jeremiah's, book the key action in that verse is for us to remember that no matter what life brings or how evil intrudes, our Creator has a plan: "His sovereignty cannot be thwarted, and His plan is right on schedule." God did not create this evil coronavirus, any more than He petitioned Joseph's brothers to throw him into a pit and then sell him into slavery. However, once they made their choice He did become involved to make sure this evil act would turn into something good, and it did.

Recently statistics have shown that ministers who are preaching online have been receiving more people in their online congregations than had been attending their church before the virus. Dr. Jeremiah reported his online Easter service had 100,000 people watching, "a group our church wouldn't be able to hold on any given Sunday." He also reported that 1,500 people over the last six weeks have contacted the church, Shadow Mountain Community Church, to receive Christ into their life. In our InGathering Zoom meeting last month Pastor Andy also reported a large increase in those who have been tuning into his online sermons.

According to a Google search, "millions of worried people have ended up connecting with Christian evangelists in their search for help in overcoming their anxiety." They reported "this has led to a spike in online conversions." Since March there has been a 170% increase in people clicking on websites in order to "find hope." A University of



Copenhagen research professor showed prayer in 75 countries "skyrocketed to their highest levels in five years." According to pastors, evangelists and online ministries, "we are seeing millions of people open to talking about faith in the face of fear." An April 5th poll throughout America showed 44% of Americans see "the global coronavirus as a wake-up call for us to turn back to faith in God." And finally 1 in 5 non-Christians (22%) polled said the fear associated with this crisis is causing them to start reading the Bible and listen to Bible teaching and Christian sermons online, even though they previously hadn't. The poll also reported they have been searching online to learn more about Bible prophecy and God's plan for the future of mankind, and have more spiritual conversations with family and friends. A survey conducted in 2014 reported that 66% of the population agrees that the Bible contains everything we need to know for a meaningful life. But according to another poll, only 19% read the Bible every day. Will this revival toward Christianity last once this virus has a vaccine, or a cure, and the virus disappears along with our fears, just as our fear of polio once disappeared? Did an increase in church attendance last the months and years following 9-11?

In my humble opinion I don't believe that is the point where our concentration should be, as important as a revival in Christianity can be for a large part of the population on earth. It is God's plan, so even if a handful of these new seekers of Christianity changes from a non-believer to a believer that will be more believers building the kingdom, and "the angels will rejoice." (Luke 15:10).

Last month many Christians joined together online for the 33rd National Day of Prayer (the first Thursday in May). There may have been a number of new Christians joining the thousands who were praying for an end to this coronavirus, and praying for those wonderful people who have been caring for others in hospitals and at home.

GOD HAS A PLAN, continued

We, as faithful followers of Christ, don't rely on just one day of prayer. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 we are told: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

How very fortunate we are, especially during these weeks and months of isolation, to know we have all the tools God has given us to walk with Him during this crisis. We would be foolish not to take advantage of those resources. "Lord help us remember that You are in control of this life. You are the One who changes the dark to light, and You are the One who can turn evil into something amazing in our life as you did in Joseph's life, and can also change the life of a non-believer, and we thank you."

Summer Online Book Study Offerings!

If you're ready to dive into a book study and join a discussion, here are some upcoming online offerings available this summer.

Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name
by Max Lucado

Facilitator: Jim Isaac

Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m. - June 11-July 16

The Myth of Equality - InterVarsity Press
by Ken Wytsma

Facilitator: Kathy Padilla

Mondays @ 6:30 p.m. June 15-July 20

Thursdays @ 1:30 p.m. June 18-July 23

I Love Growing Older, But I'll Never Grow Old
by J. Ellsworth Kalas

Facilitator: Jeff Smith

Sundays @ 11:00 a.m. June 21-July 12

The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life by Adam Hamilton

Facilitator: Kathy Padilla

Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m. July 23-Aug. 27

All of these book study offerings will be online via Zoom. Registration will be available shortly, check our website for more information: whcomaha.org

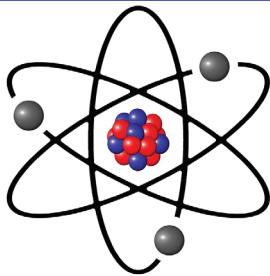
BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

1. Who ate locusts in the wilderness?
A. Matthew B. Paul C. John, Jesus' cousin
D. Peter
2. Which book of the Bible describes Canaan as a land flowing with milk and honey? A. Genesis
B. Exodus C. Leviticus D. Judges
3. Who was Noah's youngest son? A. Shem
B. Japheth C. Ham D. Benjamin
4. Who died giving birth to Benjamin?
A. Rebekah B. Rachel C. Rhoda D. Rahab
5. What judge had seventy sons? A. David
B. Gideon C. Jesse D. Solomon
6. In the Gospel of John, who anointed Jesus's feet with spikenard, an expensive ointment?
A. Mary Magdalene B. Mary, mother of Jesus
C. Mary, sister of Lazarus D. Mary, a nurse
7. According to Proverbs, who perfumed her bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon?
A. The bride B. The harlot C. The mother
D. The virtuous woman
8. Who was the first man mentioned in the Bible to have more than one wife? A. Moses
B. Lamech C. Seth D. David
9. Who married both Rachel and Leah? A. Jacob
B. Esau C. David D. Aaron
10. What king planted many vineyards, gardens, and orchards?
A. Ahab B. David C. Saul D. Solomon
11. Who was the first king to reign in Jerusalem?
A. Saul B. Solomon C. David D. Absalom
12. Who brought Greeks to Jesus? A. Andrew
B. James C. John D. Mathew

(answers on the back page)

ATOMS



Only in recent years has science discovered that everything we see is composed of things that we cannot see - tiny invisible particles called atoms, made up of electrons and protons, which are really not solids, but positive and negative charges of electricity. Considering that he lived about two millenia ago, it is extremely doubtful that the author of the books of Hebrews specifically understood the subject, yet he accurately wrote about atomic structure nearly 2000 years before it was discovered by scientists.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

Another perfect example of the divine inspiration behind the Scriptures, but that is not all. Interestingly the atom has a dense center called the nucleus, inside which are neutrons and protons. Neutrons have no electrical charge and are therefore neutral. Protons, on the other hand have a positive charge. One law of electricity is that like charges repel one another. Therefore, since the protons inside the nucleus are all positive charges, they should repel one another and scatter, but for some reason they do not. There is a binding force holding them together that is not yet understood by the scientific community, but not so hard for Bible believers to figure out.

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

(Colossians 1:16-17)

- Recognition of West Hills' 60th Anniversary will be made during worship services and/or in print
- Adopted the Opening Up America Again (OUAA) Guidelines for the West Hills plan to return to In-Person Activities. These will be reviewed monthly.
 - In Person activities allowed at Phase 1
 - * Outdoor activities with strict social distancing
 - In Person activities allowed at Phase 2
 - * Outdoor activities with moderate social distancing
 - In Person activities allowed at Phase 3
 - * Activities inside the West Hills facility of 50 people or less
 - * Congregational worship inside the West Hills facility
- Approved the following:
 - The request from Emma Neil and Trevor Wiegert to conduct their wedding at West Hills on July 25, 2020
 - Expenditure of \$13,000 for equipment and installation for Live Streaming and Recording Sunday Services
 - To receive the Emergency Fund Policy
- Received \$100,000 loan under the SBA Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP). This loan allows for forgiveness of up to the entire amount if conditions stipulated in the CARES Act are met.

To experience all of our
video messages and worship
services, please visit our
Vimeo page:
vimeo.com/whcomaha

BLESSED FINANCES by Dan Travaille, Elder of Finance

I find it utterly amazing that in the midst of some of the worst possible circumstances I can begin this financial report by saying, "All is well!" Now, more than ever, the promise found in Jeremiah 29:11 seems to ring loud and true: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

The following is a brief summary of the church's operating budget as of the end of April, combined with some subsequent information that was received around mid-May. As of April 30 our expenses for the year were approximately \$25,000 less than what we had anticipated, and the contributions received were just over \$50,000 higher than projected, putting us roughly \$75,000 ahead with our budget. What makes these figures so astonishing is the fact that at this point we had not held in-person worship services for seven weeks.

On May 14, West Hills Church was the recipient of a \$100,000 loan/grant from the Small Business Administration through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The PPP is designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses (which includes churches and other not-for-profit organizations) to keep their workers on the payroll. While the money is initially issued as a loan, the program is designed so the amount that is "loaned" **will be forgiven** if the employer keeps all employees on the payroll for eight weeks and the money that was provided is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Effectively this means the loan becomes a grant that does not need to be repaid if those conditions are met. Mike Alfieri, our director of Church Administration, has determined that the amount we normally spend in the areas of payroll and utilities for eight weeks is in excess of the \$100,000 received, so it is virtually assured that this will result in the money becoming a grant. In essence, the PPP is providing our 2020 operating budget with an additional \$100,000. **How good is that?** I would also like to mention that it was Mike's quick action and initiative that enabled West Hills to benefit from the PPP. As you may have heard in the various



news reports regarding this program the money was distributed on a "first-come, first-served" basis, and we were very fortunate in being those who were "first in line." I encourage everyone to send Mike a note of thanks for the work he did.

In summary, the operating budget is in a very solid position. When the consistent giving by the West Hills family is combined with the additional funds from the PPP, the financial outlook for the remainder of 2020 is extremely bright. We have much for which to be thankful!

Finally, while there are still another six months to go before the end of this year, this will also be the last six months of my three-year term as Elder for Finance and my last opportunity to share a few thoughts about the experience. While I thought I had a pretty good understanding of the level of financial faithfulness of the West Hills community before I began, I soon discovered that I had seriously underestimated how committed the congregation was to providing the means necessary to continue the mission and ministry of West Hills. You people are truly unbelievable! Thank you all for making this such an enjoyable journey for me.

INTRODUCING OUR 2020 SUMMER YOUTH INTERN

by Luke Burns, Youth & Young Adult Coordinator



The entire Youth Ministry Team at West Hills Church is thrilled to introduce our 2020 summer youth intern, Mia Sherlock! Mia brings so many skills and passions to our Youth Ministry program and we believe she is perfect for this position. She is very excited to meet everyone and begin working to build up our youth program. Mia has a deep desire to learn

more about God and to share her knowledge with the youth.

Mia grew up going to West Hills Church. She was confirmed here in 2014 and continued to be involved in both church and youth group. She has one brother named Cameron; two puppies named Oreo and Radar; and currently lives with her parents Kevin and Melissa in Omaha. Mia will be going into her junior year at Oklahoma City University this fall where she studies dance and arts management. As a dancer she is able to perform both in the American Spirit Dance Company as well as Spirit of Grace, a liturgical dance company that performs dance to scripture every Thursday at the campus chapel. She is a member of the

Gamma Phi Beta sorority on campus and she serves as her chapter's Education vice president. She heads a 14-person department that includes overseeing the history of the chapter, as well as ritual, and an emphasis on members' scholarship and academic pursuits.

In addition to all of the previously mentioned things, Mia is very personable and easy to talk to. She has a heart filled with compassion and empathy and will be an excellent role model for the West Hills youth! She is very open to sharing her stories, struggles, and love for reality TV with anyone and everyone she meets! Mia loves to smile, laugh, travel, study, dance and much more. She loves makeup and doing makeup tutorials on Instagram. She even has a cool and unique favorite food: Chips and queso!

The Youth Ministry Leadership Team would like to thank the entire West Hills Church congregation for being so faithful and valuing the lives and faith journeys of our middle and high school students. We wholeheartedly believe that their faith and love for Jesus will grow deeper this summer because of the work and impact of Mia being on staff. This would not have been possible without the love and support from each member of this congregation, and for that, we owe you all our heartfelt gratitude.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Peach Cobbler by Dee Buckley



A perfect summer dessert!

Ingredients:

4 cups fruit: can be rhubarb, triple berry, cherry, peach, whatever you like

3/4 cup sugar

3 tbsp butter

1/2 cup milk

1/4 tsp salt

1 cup flour

1 tsp baking powder

Cream together the sugar, butter, and add milk. Next, sift flour, baking powder, and salt and add to creamed mix above.

For cobbler top, mix:

1 cup sugar

1 tbsp cornstarch

1/4 tsp salt.

Sprinkler dry mixture over batter

Pour 1/2 cup boiling water over all.

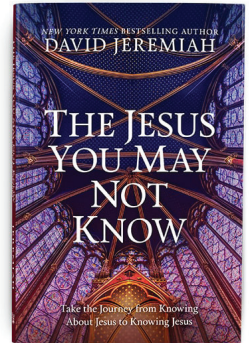
Bake at 375 degrees for 1 hour.

This recipe is for a 8 x 8 pan or double the recipe for a 9 x 13 pan.

BOOK REVIEW

The Jesus You May Not Know by Dr. David Jeremiah

In his book Dr. Jeremiah gives detailed information about "the dearest person in my life." The book reaches into the depths of both the Old and New Testaments as Dr. Jeremiah shares biblical truths in relationship to Jesus, His works and His time here on earth, from the beginning of the world.



This 239-page book is very easy reading, and full of thoughts and questions concerning whether we really know Jesus Christ, or whether we have placed Him with our own interpretation as to who He is, in order for Him to fit into our world. Dr. Jeremiah asks, "Do you know Him as your Savior and serve Him as your King?" He encourages us to "know Him as Savior, devote your life to getting to know Him better."

This excellent book takes us on a journey from knowing about Jesus to actually knowing Jesus. Dr. Jeremiah reminds us that none of us know Jesus as fully as we should for "He is the mystery of the ages—the Almighty God whose throne is in heaven; the Teacher whose wisdom changed the ethics of the world." Dr. Jeremiah assists the reader toward the goal of growing closer to Jesus and having a more personal relationship with Him, as you come to know Him more deeply and intimately. If you are interested in purchasing this book you can order it through Turning Point Ministries by calling 1-800-580-0863. However, it will also be available to you in the church library.

*To all the Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, Brothers
and other men in our lives that care and love us
unconditionally, Happy Father's Day!*

Plan to Return to In-Person Activities

WHC Directives for Returning to In-Person Worship (Phase 1)

The primary concern is health and safety of congregation and to keep the directives simple to implement and follow.

Current state guidelines include:

- o No activities other than worship service are to take place (e.g. children's Sunday School, nursery care, fellowship coffee, use of workroom copier)
- o No fellowship gathering before or after the worship service
- o 6ft distance between family/household groups, i.e. refrain touching people from other households
- o Nothing may be "passed" between any persons
- o Pew racks must be empty. Bring Your Own Bible
- o Use of facial masks to minimize spread of COVID-19 in breath molecules
- o Those not allowed to participation in-person
 - Those 65 and older
 - People with underlying medical conditions
 - Family members who live with elderly people or those with underlying medical conditions
 - People who have access to those at risk in nursing institutions
 - People who have upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms
 - People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms
 - People with COVID-19 or live with someone with COVID-19
 - People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - Based on the list above, only about **one third of WHC members/attenders** (100-135 people) will be allowed to attend in-person worship until Phase 3
- o Additional PCUSA Guidance – "Tragically, the Covid-19 coronavirus attacks the breath and transmits itself through respiration when people are gathered in close proximity. This makes congregational singing an especially poignant and problematic activity... singing and choral music... should be omitted when churches first return to public worship, until such a time as it is deemed safe."

Volunteer/Staff Roles

- All must have a general understanding of state and WHC rules/procedures in case questions or problems arise.
- Greeters – Responsible for directing and maintaining social distancing as congregants arrive, await seating, and depart
- Ushers – Responsible for directing congregants to seats in sanctuary, assist with any movement during service, and directing congregants during exit from sanctuary including timing of when allowed to exit to maintain social distancing
- Facility staff – Responsible for making cleaning/disinfecting supplies and PPE available, support of greeters and ushers in maintaining social distancing requirements, and facility cleaning/disinfecting during and after service

Overview

- Currently anticipate 1 Sunday service per week
- The sanctuary holds 125-150 worshipers (households 6ft apart)
- RSVPs will help anticipate the number attending, and families of 4 or more will be asked to include that information when completing RSVP to facilitate placement in sanctuary
- Seating available in every 3rd pew, with the exception of some diagonal pews that allow for every-other pew
 - o Pews used for seating in the two main center sections of the sanctuary will be staggered so that no one is seated directly across center isle from others
 - o Pews will be marked in advance to distinguish where seating is allowed
- Seating allowed only on the ends of the pews. Pews 10ft or shorter in length will be used to accommodate only 1 family: preferably those with 4 or more members
 - o A 6ft 'no person's land' will be taped off at the center of each pew. This interval may have to be visually adjusted to one side or the other depending upon size of families seated in pew
 - Ushers will be given cloth measuring tapes to confirm 6ft distance if necessary
- Center doors to sanctuary from Geneva Lounge will be closed with all entrance and exit using left and right doors for related main center section. (i.e. right doors for right side pews; left doors for left side section)
- Far left and right "diagonal" sections will be seated and dismissed via the "cry room" doors for the left, and "choir

entry” doors for the right

- Signage will be used to provide direction/reminders to worshipers at parking lot entrances, at church entrances, and within church at pertinent locations
- If the necessary number of non-high-risk greeters and ushers cannot be recruited, then certain building and sanctuary entryways will need to be closed
 - E.g. initially close the east entrance into the church, and/or the “choir” entry into the sanctuary
- Restrooms will be available but may only be used by one person at a time.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures:

- Parking lot signage will notify worshipers to wear masks and maintain a 6ft interval between households
 - Church areas not directly involved with worship will be closed off, i.e. downstairs, staff work areas, and chapel area
 - Greeters will monitor parking lot to ensure intervals are maintained and provide direction to socially distanced entrance queues
 - If required due to volume, parking in every other stall may be necessary
 - Gaffers tape will be placed on carpet inside church as visual reminder of 6ft interval in the entrance queue
 - Signage will also be placed at 3 main church entryways marking where queues are to form, and outlining seating and dismissal process
 - This signage to include large (approx. 3'X3') detailed schematic of sanctuary with all pews diagrammed, and how seating is to be arranged for better congregant understanding and flow during entry and dismissal processes
 - Dependent upon volume of arriving worshipers, queue lines will be formed at...
 - For those arriving via the north and west (overflow) entryways a line will form at the bottom of stairs on the northwest side of Geneva Lounge
 - For those arriving via west entryway a line will form at the bottom of stairs at the southwest side of Geneva Lounge
 - For those arriving via the east entryway a line will form in hallway at the choir doorway into sanctuary
 - An usher will be assigned to each of the 4 doorways into sanctuary to be used for entry/seating and dismissal
 - The doorways are: “cry room” entry, left and right doorways from Geneva Lounge, and “choir” entry
 - At least 4 ushers will be necessary, but no more than 6 to avoid confusion between groups
 - Usher will signal worshiper at stairway when seating is available and ready to escort
 - Ushers will need to communicate with each other to ensure that groups being escorted do not come within 6ft interval during seating process
 - Seating will be made from the front of the sanctuary to the back; EXCEPT for large groups pre-assigned based upon RSVP information
 - Ushers may use judgement within one or two groups, or pews, to maximize fit of families/groups to be seated
 - During service Ushers should be aware if an attender needs to exit sanctuary that the social distancing 6ft interval is maintained with other households in their pew, and in nearby pews in-front, behind, and across isle
 - Secure boxes will be utilized at each of the sanctuary exits for congregant offerings as they depart after the worship service
 - The boxes will be disinfected immediately after congregants have exited building by facility/cleaning staff, and locked in Administration Director’s office by them
 - Ushers are not to have contact with the checks/monies placed in boxes, or the boxes themselves
 - To minimize potential transmission of COVID-19, membership/attendees will be encouraged to continue to make offerings via USPS or online
 - When worship service is complete, ushers will begin dismissing worshipers starting with those at the back of the sanctuary
 - Worshipers are to exit the sanctuary, and the church using the same doorways used during entry
 - Ushers will monitor and allow sufficient time for exiting worshiper to maintain 6ft interval throughout exiting process
 - Greeters will meet exiting worshipers at bottom of Geneva Lounge stairs, or near elevator for east parking exit, and ensure social distancing protocols are followed
- Facility staff will commence disinfection all areas connected with worship services beginning with sanctuary when last worshiper has exited sanctuary

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



JUNE

1-Beth Anderson
Kim Sedivy
Ryan Turner
2-Debra Chadwick
4-Rhona Yetts
7-Michael Wohlgemuth
9-Rosemary Frandeen
10-Warren Powell
11-Rene Padilla
Rich Schmidt
12-Kathy Leach

15-Keth Boyd
Linda Springsted
19-Kara DeHaven
Roger Harned
21-Jan Vermilyea
24-Mason McIntosh
26-Mark Jacobsen
27-Jerrian Hawkins
Linda Nodes
28-Rob Laughlin
Stan Owens
Kayla Wilson

29-Deb Johnson

Jane Power

Josh Sauer

Terry Topolski

JULY

2-Noreen Johnson

Linda Schuchmann

3-Allison Kopperud

Caitlin O'Hare

Alisha Sauer

*(the remaining July birthdays
to be published in the July
newsletter)*