

OUR MISSION IS TO BUILD A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WITH ALL PEOPLE

WESLEY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dear friends,

July 20, 2020

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! I am thankful for this opportunity to reach out to you. This letter contains important information about upcoming opportunities to worship together. This is the **fourth** of **six** letters you will be receiving to help you understand as fully as possible the path ahead.

We plan to open for in-person worship on August 2, 2020, at 10 am. We are monitoring the Kent County Covid-19 data (www.accesskent.com/Health/covid-19-data) and will make adjustments if needed.

We recognize there is no vaccine or treatment for Covid-19. We understand that people over 60, those with diabetes, autoimmune disease, cancer, breathing issues, heart issues, and other conditions, make them susceptible to infection. Therefore, we will have various contingencies to help people connect to worship and one another in ways that are safest for them. The letters that follow in the weeks ahead will detail all you will need to know going forward.

The plan for worship will include Online Worship, Public-Access Television Worship, In-person Worship, and Parking Lot Worship with a radio broadcast that will be powerful enough to reach a car in the church parking lot.

When you arrive for worship, the Joshua Task Force will be ready. The disinfecting team will have already mopped the FLC and wiped down all the chairs, door handles, bathrooms, and surfaces. The greeters will be ready outside the Welcome Center doors to meet you and prepare you to enter the church. Our attendance team will be in place to check you in. The ushers will have 60 chairs in the FLC ready to arrange as you arrive. The FM Transmitter will be playing gathering music you can listen to on 107.7 on your car radio. The worship team will have recorded music and messages and will have filled the worship space with prayer and blessings.

Each worship service at 10 am will be live-streamed, which means you can watch it from home as if you were present. We hope this will help us feel more like a congregation and help people get a sense of the look and feel of in-person worship. We will also continue to put together worship services similar to what we are currently sharing. These online services will be offered Sunday at 6 pm for all who would like to watch and worship together. They will also be available anytime afterward.

Worship begins at 10 am and will last between 30 and 40 minutes. Please plan to arrive early to get checked in. You can sit in your car if the line is long. There will be a process to go through to enter the building.

Greeters:

Line up to enter the Welcome Center under the awning. Chalk marks on the sidewalk will designate proper social distancing. Masks covering the nose and mouth are required for everyone over two years old. Please choose to worship from home if you have a temperature or if you are not feeling well.

The greeters will help you know what is expected when you enter the building. Please bring your own mask. Some masks will be available if necessary. The greeters will remind you to maintain social distancing. They will also ask you the questions on the card included in this letter. You could save time by bringing the list with you and affirming your responses to the questions. Please take this step seriously. Lives and the health of others are at risk.

Attendance:

Once you enter the church, please stand on one of the dots that designate six feet of social distancing. In the area where the Welcome Desk used to be, someone will be checking you in. They will ask if you called in to register for worship. The letter next week will explain how to do that. If you did call in, your name will be on the list and ready to check-in. Please remind the attendance person of your name. I know we know each other, but it may be challenging to put a name with a masked face. If you did not register the attendance person will need to make sure there are seats available. We are limited to sixty seats in the FLC.

The attendance helpers may ask you to step aside for a few moments to sort that out. If the FLC is at capacity, the attendance person will invite you to worship from your car by tuning into 107.7.

Ushering:

After you are checked in, please move forward to the FLC doorway and wait for an usher to ask you how many seats you will need. People who live in the same house can sit together. Do not move your chair once the usher seats you or move around to visit with others. This is not because we don't want people to be friendly, but because we can maintain our social distancing. Feel free to visit with those around you from your seat. You can bring a walker or wheelchair to sit on if that would be easier. Ushers will be ready to help any in or out of their seats if needed.

Once everyone is seated, we might take a picture to know who is sitting in each section of the FLC. If there is any reason to contact you because someone becomes sick, we will better know who is closest to each other.

A word about the bathrooms: yes, the bathrooms will be available for use. I encourage you to try to refrain from using the bathrooms unless it is an emergency. Bathroom attendants will need to disinfect the bathroom after every use. Using the bathroom at your home before coming to worship would be much appreciated, but no one should suffer or feel the bathrooms are off-limits.

Worship:

The worship service will follow our regular order. There will be music as we gather together. Some parts of the service will be on the screens, like the Children's Blessing and the songs. We will pray, read Scripture, receive a sermon, hum or snap our fingers along to amazing music, and find strength for the week ahead. We will not be passing an offering plate to avoid multiple touches. At the end of the service, I will bless you, remind you to leave your offering in a basket that will be in the Welcome Center, and ask the ushers to excuse people person by person. Please maintain social distancing and make your way outside, rather than stop to visit inside.

Please give your offering any way that is comfortable for you. Many people are learning to give online, but you can give by check or other ways. Reminders for ways to give are on the back of each bookmark that was included in this letter. For those in the parking lot, ushers will be prepared to receive your offering. I will ask you to turn on your headlights if you have an offering during the final song, and an usher will come to you.

Disinfecting:

The disinfecting team will prepare the space before worship. They will be ready to wipe down anything during worship, including disinfecting the bathrooms if they are used. Following the service, all the chairs and surfaces will be wiped down again.

Restoration Community Church:

Our friends at Restoration Community Church have joined the Joshua Task Force trainings. RCC will follow the same procedures as Wesley Park UMC for greeting, attendance, ushering, worship, and disinfecting.

Next week's letter will include instructions for reserving a space for the in-person worship. We will need to take reservations so that we are prepared with chairs and proper spacing. This registration process will also help us with contact tracing. If someone does become ill we will let all who were present know.

May God bless you and keep you.

Peace,



Rev. Dean N. Prentiss