

July
2020

Jefferson⁺town *United Methodist Church*

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THE PASTOR PONDERES
And Ponders and Ponders, Poor Guy!

“I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go to the House of the Lord.’”

(Psalm 122:1)

As you know, it was with a great deal of both excitement and sheer panic, that we opened up the sanctuary for worship once again. Now we have a few weeks under our belts and I am feeling much more comfortable with the notion.

My sense of an enhanced calm was recently elevated as I watched the evening news while preparing my dinner. There was a dialogue between a news reporter and a health expert in the field of infectious disease control. Their discussion drew me in quickly.

The focus of the interview was to ask the expert his opinion on the level of risk associated with various opportunities that were opening up as local restrictions are lessened. With each activity, a rating scale was given, ranging from low risk to high.

One by one, the reporter presented activities from which people were now free to choose. Such opportunities included: getting a haircut, going to the grocery store, shopping in a department store, and eating out. I guess there were at least a dozen activities discussed before the reporter posed the last event to rate – going to a church worship service inside.

My full attention was now on the response of the expert, and not on finishing all my meal preparations. Would this person have an agenda against church and unbeknownst to the rest of us, rate the event unfairly? I was holding my breath.

The response began in the same manner that all the others had. “Assuming all the proper precautions are being taken by a particular location...” I heard his next words and a smile grew across my face. **LOW RISK!** Lower, in fact, he noted, than many of the other options they had discussed.

It was at that moment I knew we had made the right decision to start inside worship at church again. I know that it only takes one moment of lightening up on our list of precautions to leave someone vulnerable. I know that many in our church family are not ready to return (and should not!).

We pledge not to let up on our commitment to provide a low risk environment for those who come in to worship. Much credit for these efforts goes to Jean Ramsey (our resident infectious disease control expert), and those volunteers she coordinates. Truly, in my heart I can echo the words of the Psalmist, it is good to be invited to church!

Working together with you to build the Kingdom of God until Jesus returns *Bro. Bob*

Worship Will Continue at 10:00 AM

After careful consideration, I have decided that for matters of safety, and because of the smaller attendance, we will continue with our current practice of holding one service on Sundays at 10:00 AM. A video recording of our worship service will be released late Sunday evening for those who cannot yet attend (go to YouTube, and search for Jeffersontown Worship, or go to our website, and click on worship in the top right hand corner of the main page). *–Bro. Bob*

July 5th Worship at 10:00 AM
Observance of Holy Communion
Special Music by a Brass Ensemble
Patriotic Music

JUMC Video Worship Experience & Updates



For 12 weeks during this COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked to overcome restrictions aimed at curtailing the spreading of this illness. Not being able to worship as we always have, necessitated an aggressive learning curve in using the technology to provide online worship opportunities. Each video worship experience was a group effort by the various participants. I enjoyed the challenge of editing the recordings and placing them online for all to see.

Now that we are back to meeting together on Sundays in the sanctuary, I will continue to record the service and upload it to YouTube later that evening. Pastor Bob, Michael and I, are all in agreement that every person who is a part of JUMC church family, should have the opportunity to experience worship weekly. We are working to make improvements as we release these online services. Whether you are able to return to worship now or not, we are all one in the family of God. –*Dayron Reyes*

Worship and Music Ministry

Wonderful to see so many of you in church last week and I hope even more can attend as comfort levels (hopefully!) increase. Many of you are choir members and you are really missing leading worship in the choir, bell choir or praise team. We will have a brass quintet with us on July 5th and that will be a fun service. Research has shown that instrumentalists have greatly reduced projection of the COVID-19 virus by the very nature of the curves and shape of the instrument. But what about choirs? The following is an excerpt from a very good article on the subject. We will not have a full or even partial choir until we are sure it is safe. Meanwhile, keep the songs going in your hearts and minds as I am certain God loves music!

What makes singing so high risk?

Singing involves a lot of activity from your throat and respiratory system – there's vibration of the vocal folds, manipulation of the larynx, pharynx, tongue and lips and deep breathing. Someone vocalizing an 'aah' sound followed by 10 seconds of normal breathing emits around 60 per cent more aerosols than 30 seconds of repeated coughing, research from 2009 found. It's also the way your mouth moves when you sing that makes it such an effective way to transfer the virus. Vocologist Heather Nelson, who conducts a choir in Missouri, says there are a few things going on. "When you sing vowels the mouth is wide open so aerosols are completely unobstructed. When you sing explosive consonants like 'p' and 'b' a large puff of air is produced so large droplets are expelled. Also, even amateurs sing louder than they speak so that increased energy means we are just going to spit further," Dr. Nelson says. While any large droplets you project while singing will fall quickly to the ground, the tiny aerosols can remain suspended in the air and then inhaled (a bit like cigarette smoke). And what's an activity where people inhale more deeply and frequently? **Singing.**

There is still much to learn about aerosol spread of COVID-19, but the evidence is stacking up and epidemiologist Professor Raina MacIntyre says the exceptionally high 'attack rates' in overseas choirs suggests aerosolization is a huge risk factor.

For this reason we're asking the congregation to sing softly while wearing a mask.

Blessings ~ Michael Bleau, Music Director musicianmichael@bellsouth.net



Kara Mattingly

We are excited to announce that efforts are underway for this summer's Vacation Bible School! Early plans are for an online, virtual VBS to span three days. Here are some of our thoughts as to how this might work:

- ▶ Box of supplies filled with
 - welcome letter to this year's VBS
 - all the lesson, activity and song sheets
 - craft supplies for one project each day
 - stickers and album to fill
 - a special t-shirt with VBS theme
- ▶ Video uploaded on YouTube each day with
 - personal greeting and intro in that day's theme
 - songs performed for the kids to sing along with
 - short devotion for children to listen to
 - simple prayer time for children to join in
 - maybe a magic trick or illustration to watch
 - a daily closing time where we invite them back

A small group is still working on details, and finding volunteers needed, so some changes are likely, and our main theme has not yet been determined. Please notify the church office if you wish to help in some manner. Remember—it's all about the kids!

New Contact Information

Latney & Jean Ramsey have moved (but are still in J-town)! New Address: 9716 Forestwood Drive, Louisville, KY 40299 (same phone).

Gloria Beswick-new phone number: (502) 693-4251.

Please make these changes in your church directory.

Congratulations on the New Arrival!

Tiffany & Austin Collins' baby girl (Evelyn "Evie" Kaye Collins) was born Tuesday, June 9th. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces. Mother and baby are doing well at home, staying safe.

Administrative Council Meeting-Tuesday, July 14th, 6:30 PM

All members of this Ministry Team are urged to attend. Please wear a mask. We will meet in the CAYA classroom, using social distancing.

Peace with Justice (one of the United Methodist Special Sunday offerings)

We will receive this special offering on Sunday, July 19th. Donations for Peace With Justice Sunday helps enrich ministries of reconciliation in the United States and around the world. An insert (with envelope attached) will be included in the bulletins on July 19th. Please prayerfully consider a generous offering.

Thank You

A **BIG** “thank-you” to Nina Walton, Sandy Iacocca, JoAnn Magill and Darla Hill for making and/or donating face masks in June (and to Debbie Howell and Loretta White for all the face masks they made and donated previously). We now have a good supply in various sizes, colors and designs for men, women, older children and younger children. If you need a washable face mask, stop by the church office and pick one out. They are free!

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and calls for my surgery and recovery. I am doing well, and hope to be back at church soon. –*Claudia Zeckner*

Christian Love and Sympathy to . . .

- . . . Gloria Beswick and family in the death of her father, Lawrence Ray Routt, June 3rd.
- . . . friends and family of Nell Futrell who was a long-time member of JUMC, and resided at Glen Ridge Health Center. Nell died June 10th.
- . . . Norma & Jerry Littlefield in the recent death of Norma’s sister-in-law, Liz, in Memphis TN

Memorials Received

In Memory of Darrell Hicks

by

Ralph & Sarah Hicks, Richard Moody

Financial Update

The Finance Committee would like to update the congregation on the current financial status of our church. As of June 30, 2020, we have received \$136,451.82 in General Fund offerings, plus \$12,750 in IRA contributions to the General Fund for a total of \$149,201.82. The total amount needed for our 2020 Budget is \$300,371.00 (or \$150,185.50 through June 30th). That means we’ve received 99.35% of the money needed to fund the budget for the first six months of this year. That is remarkable, considering what we have just come through. The Finance Committee would like to express our appreciation to the congregation for their faithful commitment. We are thankful to have such a caring, dependable, Christian Church Family.

Date	Attendance	General Offering
6/07/2020	online	\$9,941.00
6/14/2020	53	\$4,941.00
6/21/2020	47	\$3,411.00
6/28/2020	55	\$5,122.84

Statistical Report

Total June General Offering: \$23,415.94

COVID-19 Fund=\$394.00

United Methodist Committee on Relief

(U.M.C.O.R.)=\$75.00

5th Sunday (Methodist Homes)=\$50.00

As a Member of Jeffersontown United Methodist Church, you pledged to faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness.

(The U.M. Hymnal, pg 38)

Donations Other Than Tithe-The Tellers request that you please write a separate check for donations to the church other than your tithe (such as: Capital Fund, COVID-19, Holiday offerings, etc.), made payable to the church.

Charitable Donations-The JUMC Administrative Council voted to not distribute or endorse requests for donations to charities outside The United Methodist connection.

Pre-Paying Your Pledge-There are tax advantages for persons age 70 & ½ and older who are required to make annual withdrawals from their IRA (if you donate money from that account to the church). Several church members have done that in the past. If you’d like more information, call Lee Hart so he can explain the process & tax advantages 502-267-8066 (wk); 502-254-1682 (home).

Groups Meeting In The Church Building

Groups wishing to meet in the JUMC church building (other than church Ministry groups) **must first request permission** (either groups who have met in the building in the past, or new groups). Groups no larger than 10 may meet (once given permission & after submitting a written plan), as long as members wear face masks, use social distancing (including Cub Scout Leaders, Boy Scout Leaders, Girl Scout Leaders [not troops or packs], and TOPS), and disinfect all surfaces after each meeting.

Continuing Ministries

- **Coca Cola Codes for Red Bird**-On the inside of Coca Cola bottle caps, and the inside of cardboard carton multi-pack end flaps. Place in the Campbells Soup tin in the Gathering Area.
- **Harvest Food Program** (in partnership with KFC and Starbucks)-Twice weekly pick ups of chicken and biscuits from KFC and pastries and cold items from Starbucks, which are being distributed to our homebound and others.
- **Mask Ministry**-Face masks made by church members. If you wish to contribute material or finished masks, please drop these items off at the church office.
- **Water Step**-New or gently used shoes. Proceeds from the sale of these shoes go to purchase equipment to provide clean water worldwide. Place in collection box in foyer off parking lot.
- **Laundromat Ministry**-Lenten quarter drive extended. Bring your quarters with you to worship and place on the altar rail, or drop off at the church

Birthdays & Anniversaries

(Anniversaries marked with an asterisk)

7/1-*Bill & Inez Howard,
*Bob & Debbie Howell
7/5-Douglas Foster
7/10-Bobby Bruner
7/10-*Scott & Linda Denissen
7/11-Russ Zeckner
7/15-Courtney Heaton
7/18-Heather Majors
7/22-*Latney & Jean Ramsey
7/23-Eric Edwards,
*Troy & Kay Eskridge
7/25-Sue Spencer
7/27-Loretta White
7/30-Jeremiah Parker,
*John & Ree Ingram

Give for Good Louisville for Lighthouse Academy at Newburg

Thursday, September 17th, from 12:00 AM until 11:59 PM (one day of online giving). Donations will be matched! Mark your calendar and plan to give. Instructions will be in upcoming church newsletters. Let all your friends know and ask them to donate!

Church Staff

Pastor-Rev. Bob Howell-cell#502-819-1160; Email: ukyhowell@gmail.com;

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator-Dayron Reyes-cell#786-448-8014; Email: dayronreyes17@yahoo.com

Music Director-Michael Bleau-cell# 502-341-8222; Email: musicianmichael@bellsouth.net

Children's Ministry Coordinator-Kara Mattingly-cell#270-505-9519; Email: kara.mattingly1208@gmail.com

Pianist-Patsy O'Neal-cell#502-930-5357; Email: sing.peagreen@hotmail.com

Secretary-Teresa Allen*; Email: churchoffice@jtownumc.org

Nursery Attendant-Jessica McNeill*

Child Development Center Director-Jennifer Webster-Ph# 502-261-2867; Email: jumcdc@gmail.com

*Please call the church (502-267-1437) to reach these staff members.