

Hello Friends,

As we are all getting back into the groove of gathering in limited ways, I want to make sure that we understand that we are following a process to make this transition. It has been such a joy to be able to see friends, to worship together as we hear the great songs of our faith, and to hear scripture proclaimed from our pulpit! Although we are working through our plan to move back to familiar patterns and habits, I want to remind us that any journey we take together consists of several small steps. Some things that we hope to be able to do in the future, such as running our busses, or giving rides to church, we are not able to do yet, due to protocols, liability, and safety concerns. Sitting across a table from friends, sharing a cookie or a cup of coffee in the fellowship hall after worship, or even greeting people with a hug are things that we hold onto as hope for the days ahead! All the while remembering that some of us have not been able to participate in person yet due to a variety of situations.

I know that my personality is such that once I take one step, I am eager to take the next and it is easy for me to lose sight of the bigger goal of moving past the pandemic in such a way that observes best practices, limiting risk and balancing physical, emotional and spiritual health!

Our approved plan to utilize various spaces to worship together, our limits on occupancy and the protocols we have in place for Time, Distance and Shielding are all part of the path we have before us to return to those patterns, and I am excited to say, incorporate new ways to be a community of faith, that works to usher in the Kingdom of God! As we receive new information and guidelines, we are applying them to our plan so that we can in good faith, implement our re-opening plan with the assurance that we are loving God and our neighbor, without doing harm in the process.

Here are some things to know for the Sundays ahead, and opportunities to be in service at KFUMC

As we are moving forward in the process of re-opening our facilities for use, we realize that the way we “do” worship is going to have to be updated in a couple ways. Beyond the obvious safety protocols, we need to observe with Time, Distance and Shielding, we are realizing that some of the mechanics of the service are going to need to be updated as well. There are two areas we need to update for our time together.

- 1) **Hosts** to help point people in the right direction, remind people of the safety protocols, help us monitor our occupancy and keep track of “contact tracing” information: What that means is that we need several people willing to serve our church by greeting people as they come in the building, hand out masks to anyone who needs one, point people in the right direction and just help people navigate the worship service and protocols we have in place easily. Also, to keep account of people in the building so that when one worship space has reached its occupancy limit, we can guide people to the proper space to participate in worship. If you would like to be a worship service “Host” please give us a call at the Church (509 582-2163) and let us know.
- 2) **Worship Technology Team:** For quite some time we have known that we are going to need to have a greater presence in worship beyond those who are seated in the church building. The last year has allowed us to fast forward that reality and provide online streaming services through the technology we have acquired. Do you see yourself as computer savvy? Have you ever hosted a Zoom meeting, or posted a video to Facebook, TikTok or Instagram? Moving forward our live virtual worship services are going to continue to be an important part of our worship life together. Would you like to operate a camera, help us maintain our live stream or help with projecting the service in various locations? Even if you have never done this kind of activity, we can show you how (it is not nearly as difficult as it seems) Whether you are young or old, this may be the perfect place for you to help our church move into the future. If you would like to help with the Audio/Visual Team at church give us a call and let us know!

No need to reserve your seat for church.

Beginning this Sunday (May 2nd) we will be using a “sign in” procedure for our limited attendance gatherings on Sunday Mornings, rather than reserving a spot at our RSVP. Church site. We ask that when you arrive for Worship you give us your name and a contact number, in case we should need to contact you about any health concerns or updates. We will first seat people in the sanctuary, when we reach the seating capacity for the Sanctuary, we will seat people in the Ida Payne Fellowship Hall. When that space reaches capacity, we will seat the remaining congregation in the Youth Chapel.

Please remember, for those participating in person, we ask that we all wear masks and that we social distance at a minimum of 6’ (roughly two arm lengths) between households.

I hope it is a wonderful week... Now go wash your hands

Pastor Mark