First Pres News Flash – June 11, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian,

The Re-opening Church Task Force has been meeting each week on Tuesday evenings as we pour through data and guidelines and discuss potential options in our efforts to arrive at safe recommendations for resuming church activities and worship, which will then be passed on to Session for approval. We are trying to make the best decisions for the congregation as a whole and especially for the most vulnerable among us.

When we do return to in-person congregational worship and other events, it will not be in the manner to which we were accustomed prior to Covid-19. There will be no close gathering or greeting in the Gathering Area, no coffee hours or receiving lines, no choir or congregational singing, no physical contact of any kind. CDC guidelines will be followed and directives from the Ohio Office of the Governor and Department of Health will be observed. This includes the need for social distancing and the wearing of facial coverings or masks.

Though these new restrictions may seem harsh, they are necessary for resuming our lives together safely in this community of faith. The Task Force welcomes comments and suggestions from you as they work through these difficult decisions. Everyone’s voice will be heard.

In the meantime, the work and worship of our church will remain “open” and continuing as we live ever more fully into God’s calling to us as individuals and as a holy community.

May God’s blessing and peace abide with each of you during these unprecedented days.

Pat Bare, Trevor Dunlap, Jeff Perkins, Mimi Lewellen, Carol McKiernan, Nancy Young, Amy Baxstrom, Donna Bye, Eric Gastier, Tim Hall, David Rice

The Re-Opening Task Force has been working diligently to research and create protocols that will keep us safe. We have many Zoom studies available, a meaningful Sunday services recorded and available in many ways, and our website is full of videos and activities from Rachel and I that are for people of all ages. As this virus is ever changing, we want to make sure we are creating content and hosting programming that is desired and needed. In order to do that we want to hear from you.

Please take this 4 question survey so we can prepare the needed programming during this time. It will take less than 60 seconds but will be a valuable tool in our next steps!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GCGS7G5

Thank you!

Amy Baxstrom and The Re-Opening Task Force
ATTENTION ALL AGES: Amy and Rachel have worked hard to help everyone stay engaged with the content they are posting on Facebook and on our website. Whether you are seeking meditations, devotionals, songs, activities to do with children, we have it all! It also helps to like their posts on Facebook as that generates interest in other people outside of our congregation to view their posts in their newsfeed. Our church is doing great things! Help us to spread the word. Please see the next article on how to access their pages on the website or go to our Facebook page. Thank you, Donna Bye

Check out Amy Baxstrom’s page of Uplifting Videos and Messages and Rachel King’s page of Music Notes, Singing and Stories. Both of these pages in order are the 2nd and 3rd slides on the website. To make it easy to access their pages, all you have to do is click on their slide on the front page and it will direct you to their pages! They have great videos of inspiring songs, stories, meditation, prayer, and even dancing! If you want to explore the website, their pages are under the tab, What’s Happening at FPC.

DRUM CIRCLE: Rachel King has a marvelous idea to possibly get together outside somewhere a few times this summer for a drum circle type of activity using buckets as drums. Everyone would stay at least 6 feet apart and not be sharing any equipment. You would not need to own anything special or have any prior musical skills to participate. Please let Rachel know – send her an email at rking@firstpreswooster.org. She will need to move forward with gathering supplies, finding a location to meet where loud noise can be generated for a good time and selecting a time that works well for everyone! If you’re itching to get out of the house and want to make a little noise, this activity is for you!

CHANGES TO THE WEBSITE: On FPC’s website home page and sermons page, I have added links for the hymn and the bulletin under Sunday’s sermon. It will be easier to access. Just click on the links and the bulletin and hymn will come up in PDF form for you to print out before viewing. This is also formatted for a mobile device if you are listening and want to view either PDF link. Thanks, Donna Bye

“KENZIE HANCOCK’S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE: You all have helped shape Kenzie into the young lady she is today, we want to invite you to help celebrate her accomplishments and high school graduation on Tuesday June 16th 4-8 pm at our home at 1393 Oil City Rd. Wooster.” Thank you, Roy Hancock, III

ALERT: David Rice would not solicit you through email for any circumstances to buy credit cards for a sick member or for you to send him money. This is an email scam. Always, look at the email address. David’s email address is drice@firstpreswooster.org. The scammer will send an email that looks like David’s, very close but altered. Do not respond or open any of these emails that have attachments. Report phishing emails through your email provider. For gmail, here are the instructions: Report a phishing email

1. On a computer, go to Gmail.
2. Open the message.
3. Next to Reply , click More .
   Note: If you’re using classic Gmail, click the Down arrow .
PHOC MAPLE SYRUP - The Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp maple syrup sales to support the youth programs (SWEET!) continues to be available through the Shorts. Please call them and leave a message - (Ted's cell: 330-466-2763; Karen's cell: 330-466-3404) for pick-ups at their home at 935 Fenwick Circle. It will be valuable to have the exact cash or a check made out to PHOC for the exact amount to minimize cash exchanges. Pints are $9, quarts $16, half-gallons $28, and gallons $50. We hope to again, have a supply in the church visitation area after we re-open.

Gardeners still needed: Still a need for gardeners: the areas are the garden around the Beall Avenue sign (the previous tenders just did the weeding, mulching and planting of marigolds) and the two gardens flanking the main entrance to the church. Neither area will require more than an hour's attention every other week.

Smithville Nursing Home will be having a Prayer in the Parking Lot on June 19 at 2:00 p.m. State officials along with Reverends, Pastors, etc. from other churches in the Wooster area will be in attendance. Social distancing rules will need to be adhered to and masks will have to be worn. If anyone would like to go, please RSVP to Amanda Flores at 330-345-9050.

People to People is now distributing boxes of food to last for two weeks to needy families and seniors. The State Highway Patrol is helping deliver to these families. If you know of a family/senior in need, please let them know. Also, they are receiving shipments of food from the food bank and donations from the public. They appreciate any additional help by dropping off food or money you can provide. Thank you, People to People

We will be collecting your Joys and Concerns for future digital meetings. In order to keep things easy, we only have a few directions:

1. Please try to make all recordings landscape orientation.
2. Please limit length to about 20 to 30 seconds
3. Please have all recording submitted by end of business day on Wednesday so that we have time to review and process them all.
4. You can submit recordings via email to firstpimac@gmail.com or by uploading recording to https://www.dropbox.com/request/VQzNMav4u2MY1zx6mwiB

Here is a sample link of how to do Joys and Concerns from Jacob Gooch at: https://youtu.be/vvJXdJ14hd8

A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM RDM:
The work of our church and ministries continue while keeping a social distance! The RDM realizes that many congregants like to fulfill their stewardship commitments each Sunday with the symbolism of placing their check into the offering plate. With the current pandemic and safety measures in place to keep everyone healthy, obviously this presents its own challenge. Please keep the church and our continuing ministries in mind as you pay your own household bills each week. Let the office know if you need help setting up automatic transfers through your financial institution or have any interest in online giving.
We would love to see you at our home to celebrate. Here are a few details to keep in mind:

- Our Open House will take place in an outdoor/open-air space, with cover in case of rain.
- We will have hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes on hand, and you are more than welcome to come with a face mask, gloves, or any other protective wear in which you feel comfortable.
- If you prefer a less-crowded setting, you are welcome to swing by early, during the 1:00-2:00 hour.

See you on June 20th!
Here are links to eight churches with similar theology and worship styles that are streaming Sunday worship and other resources:

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City  https://www.fapc.org

Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago  www.bit.ly/FPCworship

with the bulletin here  https://fourthchurch.org/bulletins/2020/index.html

Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas  https://www.phpc.org/streaming/

Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta  https://www.trinityatlanta.org/

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis  https://www.westminstempls.org/

Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Denver:  https://www.montview.org/

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbus:  www.redeemerluth.com

David Shull, Pastor – Son of Gordon and Betty Shull

First Presbyterian Church in Holt, Michigan  https://www.fpc-holt.org

Ben Rumbaugh, Pastor – Son of Tom and Lisa Rumbaugh

**CALENDAR FOR JUNE 4 THROUGH JUNE 10**

**Thursday, June 11**
7:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

**Monday, June 15**
11:00 a.m. Zoom Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Faith & Worship Zoom Meeting

**Tuesday, June 16**
8:30 a.m. Zoom Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Zoom Re-opening Task Force Meeting

**Wednesday, June 17**
7:00 p.m. Faith & Structure Zoom Meeting
“Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger’s regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

“Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national, symbolic and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.”

This June 19th, our congregation of First Presbyterian is urged to join other concerned citizens of Wooster in a peaceful march at 7:00 p.m. from Cornerstone School or 2nd Baptist Church to the downtown square. Masks will be worn, safe distance will be observed, and non-partisan signs are invited. See you then!