



NOTES FROM REV. ALLIE SCOTT

Beloved People of Peace,

In one of my first letters to you during the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, I anticipated being able to return quickly to worship in the sanctuary, all together, celebrating our reunion. It has become more clear over the past few months that returning to church will have to happen in phases. The documents in this newsletter lay out the way in which Peace UMC plans to be the church during this season.

I'll be honest - it's been a difficult season. Sifting through the huge variety of information as we watch scientific discoveries happen in real time has made it difficult to have a clear view of the future. But one thing is certain: the future we will find ourselves in depends not only on the behavior of the virus, but on the actions of people - as individuals, churches, communities, and governments. The way forward will not be a matter of following a timetable (as much as I wish it were), but of faithfully discerning the signs of the times, and responding accordingly. It has always been that way for the church. Lately, I've been meditating on the honesty in Psalm 13: "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?..."

But notice how it ends:

"I have trusted in your faithful love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
Yes, I will sing to the Lord,
For God has been good to me."

As is laid out by the documents in this newsletter, we hope to be able to host occasional small groups that cannot otherwise meet in person when the Wisconsin Department of Health Services announces we have met all the benchmarks for phase 2, which we anticipate to come sometime in July. At this point, we hope to be able to gather for outdoor worship in the early fall, as we enter Phase 3.

More information about church in Phase 3 will be announced based on updated CDC and Annual Conference guidelines when we are closer to that time.



Please understand: for at least the next year, we anticipate our lives to be shaped by the timeline set by COVID-19 and the work of the scientific community. We face difficult choices between conflicting needs. As our task force gathered for the past 6 weeks - out of a deep love for our community, our well-being, and our spiritual development, we consulted public health experts, church leaders, and business owners as we discerned what was the best way forward for the People of Peace. I want to especially thank Debbie Briggs, Linda Carlson, Rev. Susan Haller, Mary Millard, Becky Mitchell, and Eric Skogg for the work they've done and continue to do on the taskforce. You have lived into our mission, "Caring for Community," through your good work.

We pray for a spirit of discernment, for wisdom, and patience. We pray for researchers and medical professionals; for the planners; for the ill and recovering; for those grieving and struggling with the weightiness of these times. We pray for the watchers and wonderers, and all those who wait upon the Lord.

May the Holy One: God who Created us, Christ who redeems our shortcomings, and the Spirit who loves us into abundant life, be with us during this time.

Peace,

Rev. Allie

Peace United Methodist | Plan to Resume Gathering Members and Community

Out of love and care for our neighbors, and as members of the human community, Peace UMC will open in three phases. Following Governor Evers' "Badger Bounce Back" Plan and status change of phases at the state level, we will work and gather physically with the following conditions in mind. All conditions subject to change.

MEMBERS & COMMUNITY	Phase One <i>10 or Fewer (current phase)</i>	Phase Two <i>50 or Fewer (Hopefully in July)</i>
Health protocol/major shifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church closed to public without explicit permission granted by Rev. Allie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks are required (and will be provided to those without) Small groups may meet, socially distant, in narthex or Olish Hall Leader of each group must register with Jean in the office in advance of meeting and track attendance. Each group must sanitize their space after use with materials provided If any member receives a positive COVID test, they are responsible for notifying the leader of the group and/or the office so we can notify anyone they've contacted at church. If you have received a positive COVID test, are awaiting the results of a COVID test or have come in close contact to a person who has tested positive for COVID for a prolonged period of time (more than 15 minutes, please refrain from coming to church until 14 days have passed from your last date of exposure.
Worship Online Offered	9:30 a.m. Sundays	9:30 a.m. Sundays
Worship in Person	None	None
Communion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Communion biweekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online communion biweekly Worship Committee meet with Taskforce to discuss practices when we gather again
Pastoral Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available via social media, phone, e-mail and video chat In person at church in narthex No home or hospital visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available via social media, phone, e-mail and video chat In person at church as schedule permits Outdoor home visits welcome Hospital visits TBD

Fellowship Ministry Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual coffee hour biweekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual coffee hour biweekly
Weddings and Funerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arranged in advance – 10 people or less. At church or on location No musician or host 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arranged in advance – 50 people or less. At church or on location Following all health protocols listed above
Ministry meetings, Bible studies, and Events	Via zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small groups may gather in Narthex or Olish Hall, following all health protocols listed above leader must register group meeting with Jean in the Office in advance JAM & youth volunteers to be trained on Phase 3 protocol Begin development of Small Group ministries for all at Peace
Group usage by Members	Volunteers as needed when prearranged by staff and fewer than ten in building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry meetings pre-registered with office at block times (see FAQ for more details) Non-singing small groups may resume meeting if they follow all health protocols listed above
Rental – Outside Groups	12-step - if less than 10 - in Olish Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12-step groups may meet socially distanced in Olish Hall All groups must register attendance and keep records for themselves - the leader of each group responsible for notifying all attendees should an infection arise. All groups must follow all health protocols listed above
Singing	online	online

In-person worship will not take place until we reach Phase Three (as announced by the Wisconsin Department of Health).

Details for in-person worship and our Phase 3 protocols will be announced closer to that time, based on updated guidelines from both the Annual Conference and the Centers for Disease Control.

FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions



Why aren't we gathering for worship when I can go shopping?

According to the Centers for Disease Control, worship is one of the most high-risk activities based on the way we gather - we share communion, sit in close proximity, we sing. Unlike a shopping trip, where you can move as quickly or as slowly as you like, we stay in proximity to one another for long periods of time, which can amplify the spread of disease.

But more foundationally, the church never closed; we just shifted how we worshipped together. We've still been gathering for worship each week online and by phone, and need more time to ensure that we have protocols in place to care for every person who walks through our doors.

The church is different from most every other organization in our communities because we are called to honor and care for the vulnerable above all others. What does it say about our faith if we open in a way that excludes the vulnerable? After all, we worship a God who said "the first shall be last and the last shall be first" (Matthew 20:16). So we will continue to do ministry in a variety of ways beyond our building, honoring the God who walks beside us, even now.

How do I get my group to meet at the church?

Small groups that do not want to meet online (or outside at someone's house) may meet either in the Narthex or Olish Hall during one of three time periods each day: Morning (8-11:30 a.m.), Afternoon (12:30-4 p.m.), and Evening (5-9 p.m.). The leader of your group must contact Jean in the office to request your time and room. The sanctuary is off-limits to all.

Once your group has gathered, it is the responsibility of the leader to track and document who is in attendance. Church-related groups (not rentals) should also pass a copy of these attendance records to the office for registration purposes.

Mask-wearing is mandatory at any small group meeting at the church. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided.

Additionally, gatherings should be social-distanced with a minimum of six feet between each person. In Olish Hall, that means allowing one person per six-foot table. In the Narthex, the chairs will be laid out in a socially-distanced manner, and we thank you for keeping them arranged as such.

At the end of your meeting, your group will take responsibility for sanitizing the space with the cleaners provided in the room, by the cleaning protocol specified next to the cleaners. Thank you for helping us keep our space hospitable for any who want to gather!

Why do we have to wear masks? Is it mandatory?

Mask-wearing is mandatory in a small group gathering. If you do not have a mask of your own, one will be provided for you. Mask-wearing protects you from unintentionally spreading germs to others in your group, and according to several recent Public Health publications (such as the Centers for Disease Control and the National Academy of Sciences), is appearing to be the central variable that determines the spread of the novel coronavirus. Love your neighbor; wear a mask.

Can I bring my own cleaning supplies?

No. While we appreciate your desire to help Peace UMC extend its resources, for liability purposes we need to be able to demonstrate that we have provided and required the same sanitizing protocol for every group that gathers in our space. According to Church Mutual, our general liability coverage may not apply if there is a claim that our church protocols weren't followed.

What if my group wants to gather but I feel uncomfortable?

Our staff operates under the rule: we respect the highest concern. If someone is uncomfortable gathering for a public health reason, we respect their concern and either hold our meeting online or make sure an accommodation is in place for their participation.

We encourage all our small groups to follow the same rule. Before all else, do no harm. This means listening to the concerns of the

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FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions



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group and ensuring that we are finding ways for all to participate.

Can Peace stop me from gathering with my small group on my patio?

Nope. That being said, please remember the more people you come in contact with, the higher your likelihood of spreading a virus to others. Be mindful of how you go about your life this summer.

What do you mean by “development of Small Group Ministries for all at Peace”?

While the types of gatherings may fluctuate throughout the year, we at Peace are looking for ways to continue our spiritual formation for all ages. The one thing we can be sure about is that smaller gatherings are safer than larger groups. This fall, we will be developing small groups that can gather either in church, online, or in people's homes (or wherever!) so that we can build and strengthen relationships and our faith during this season.

How long is all this going to last?

We anticipate entering Phase 2 in the next few weeks - and you'll receive notification when we have. We hope to move to Phase 3 by the fall, and you'll have more details as that time comes nearer.

That being said, we don't know specifically how long this will last. We assure you that our taskforce and staff will keep a close eye on the Department of Health Services' benchmarks for entering the next phase, and will continue to watch the CDC and Annual Conference guidelines for large-group and religious gatherings.

As we watch the world and step into new ways of being the church, may we remember the Apostle Paul's guidance to the Philippians: *“Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:6-7)



Update on Peace Financials:

Thank you to all members for continuing to give to Peace generously during this unprecedented time. When church services held at Peace had to be halted and virtual services began, the giving of our church members did not cease. Members have continued to either mail checks to Peace or give to Peace online. Many members decided to try online giving instead of mailing their checks. The amount given online increased 400% in April and May compared to January. The majority of members who pledged for 2020 are on target with their contributions.

In April and May \$43,683* was received for general operating expenses. The expenses incurred for the same period were \$41,906. The budgeted expenses for the two months are \$45,826, meaning we were under budget by \$3,920. The decrease in expenses is due to a decrease in program and property maintenance spending.

In addition, Peace members continue to give towards mission projects. Over \$1,700 was given in April and May for the medical debt campaign along with continued giving to UMCOR and The Gathering lunch program.

If you should have any questions on how to give, please contact Vicki Kaminski at 414-331-1818 or vicki3469@hotmail.com.

*The actual money received for the general fund was \$31,946. However, in January \$70,424 was received as annual one-time pledges. Therefore \$5,868.66 will be applied (\$11,737 for both April and May) to represent each month of 2020.



YOUTH NEWS

From Katie Jilek

Congratulations
to our
Graduates!



Our High school Graduates

Alex Kaminski graduates from Waukesha South this year. He is planning to head to the University of Minnesota this fall to study Business.

Odin Onan graduated from Cradwell and is heading to MIAD (Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design) in the fall.

Our College Graduates

Christina Hartley graduates from the University of WI of Steven's Point. She has earned a Biology degree with a minor in Psychology and Captive Animal with a certificate in Environmental Ethics. Her next adventure is an internship at the Racine Zoo starting this summer.

Adam Carlson graduated from the University of WI in Oshkosh this past December. Adam double majored in Accounting and Information Systems. Since December he has been studying for his CPA exams, of which he has completed two so far. He has a job lined up for the fall with an accounting firm called Baker Tilly.

We will be hosting a virtual VBS event this year with Wauwatosa Avenue UMC. Please register your child by July 5, to give us time to assemble materials for you to participate in VBS. Here is the link to register, or you can find it on our Facebook Event page:

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/waumc>

Please plan to pick up materials at Wauwatosa Avenue UMC on July 11, from 9-11am. If you are unable to do so, please let me know and we can work something out.

The beauty of Virtual VBS is that you as a family can do the activities when you are able. All we ask is that you complete your 5 days of activities by August 15. Do the 5 days of activities when they fit into your schedule!

Each week from July 12 thru August 15 we will be highlighting on social media and Zoom one of the bible stories from VBS. Once you pick up your materials you will receive everything that you need to do VBS at home.

Please feel free to pass on this information to friends and extended family members to join in. This can be a great chance to do something with each other from a distance as well.

If you have any questions or concern please contact Katie by phone - (414)852-5205 - or by email: taughi.katie@gmail.com.



STAYING
CONNECTED
FROM AFAR



There are a few updates on how to connect to our meetings. Be sure you're using the correct codes to enter!

Worship:

You can join our regular 9:30 am worship service a few different ways. All of our worship services are available live on our Facebook page and Youtube Channel at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. You can also worship through Zoom either online or by phone, which gives you the chance to see the others who are in attendance by following the directions below.

Update to Zoom/call-in participants:

Due to a security update on Zoom, there is now a password required on all meetings - including those calling in by phone.

In order to access worship (and communion) by Zoom, you can do so in three different ways:

1. Click the link in Saturday's email (the password will be embedded in the link);
2. By phone: call 1-651-372-8299, enter code 690443243# and then enter password 866648; or
3. Or through your computer, by opening the Zoom application, joining room 690443243 and entering password 866648.

Our worship services will also continue to be available on our Facebook page and our YouTube Channel. Please don't hesitate to call Rev. Allie (92-203-1352) if you have any questions!

Wednesday Prayer Meeting:

We continue to gather every Wednesday at noon to catch up, share joys and concerns, and pray for each other. You are invited to join in this refreshing mid-week prayer time! Join at 12:00 p.m. from your computer or tablet by going to <https://zoom.us/j/6729919206> or by calling 1-301-715-8592 and entering code 6729919206#, and then enter passcode 12860.

Communion: (every other week, alternating with Coffee Hour)

Every other week, we'll be having a short communion service on Zoom at the end of worship. Eric will play a piece as we gather (and anyone who has been watching on Facebook Live can join the zoom meeting at the end of worship), and we'll all celebrate communion together from our own homes, just like we did at Easter. *(Don't forget to bring bread and juice to your worship spot!)*

Coffee hour (every other week, alternating with Communion):

On alternating weeks, we'll gather on Zoom as if it were Olish Hall. Once we're all online, you'll be split into random groups to chat and catch up, just like if you sat down at a table in Olish Hall with your coffee.



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