

Dear Friends,

In the many conversations we have heard or seen, the message is “the church has never been closed!” That is certainly true of Trinity. We have enjoyed many new opportunities to “meet” together. We have heard wonderful sermons on Sunday with worship full of music and children’s talks. We have had a mid-week devotional videos with fresh opportunity to make it through the week. In addition, Todd has treated us to a weekly concert at lunch time on Wednesdays. Add to that the Facebook Live prayer meetings on Tuesday nights, and zoom church meetings. That is certainly a full agenda.

But, that isn’t all, we have also been fortunate to have several opportunities to study together: Grandparent’s in Prayer, Choir rehearsal, Alpha and this week we added Wednesday devotions with the retired Ministers. Starting on June 7 at 9:30, the Tuesday morning Bible study will be on Zoom. In addition, the retired ministers have supported the Pastor by telephone visitation. Who knows what is next! Truly, the church is made up of people not the buildings. Even though services will not take place in the church building, we are in the process of planning opportunities for small groups to meet and fellowship outside until the building is open. Look for details on this coming soon.

Some of us may not be aware of the full youth program that has been taking place. They have regular Zoom meetings on Sunday nights, daily devotions with Snap Chat, Haley Facetimes the kids, they do “TicToc” together, and have Netflix watch parties. In addition, there is a young adult Bible study. Our younger children have been receiving weekly lessons and videos from our Children’s ministry.

We want you to know that the Leadership Team is working towards being prepared to reopen our building for regular worship, whenever it would be possible. Despite the fact that we have moved to the “yellow phase” and we see some businesses open and even some churches have started to meet in their buildings, we have some concerns as we consider reopening for worship. We have appointed a sub-committee consisting of Shirley Sharpe, Mary Herr, Beth Sider, Kathy Miller, Jed Beshore, Rick Bittner and Scott Loomis to help us work through details.

First of all, we are committed to following the guidelines outlined by the Bishop, and by the Center for Disease Control, as well as State and local agendas. As you might imagine, these constraints are quite elaborate.

It appears churches like ours may be working towards, potentially re-opening in late summer, subject to approval of authorities. Church will be quite different when we begin; a limited number of worshippers, no singing (congregational or choir), masks will be necessary, keeping a 6 foot distance, and no direct contact. The building, itself, will undergo a thorough cleaning, including all carpeting and pew pillows. In addition, cleaning will need to be done between every service. There will be hand sanitizing stations at needed places. There will be much preparation for our safety as we return. As you can see with what is outlined, there is much to be done and we desire to be as thorough as possible. Our goal, is late summer to re-open. However, if things go well and we can re-open early, that will be wonderful.

“Officials also advise that younger children, people age 65 and over, and others who are vulnerable remain safely at home. Opening the building for worship now does not allow us to “feel like us”. Nor does it allow us enthusiastically to welcome new people into the life of our congregation.” Pastor Denny, First United Methodist Church

We will keep you informed as the planning and work are accomplished. There is a questionnaire included for you to answer some questions for us and for you to pose questions of concerns to us. Please complete and return them to our church office. You can write the words “Regathering Survey Response” on the envelope. An online survey is also available at www.trinityumnc.com

“One of our highest aims is to represent Christ in the most honorable way we can. We don’t want to be stumbling back to our community and neighborhood. Therefore, let us love our neighbors and lift high the name of Christ by doing the best we can to protect, love, and serve those around us as we make these decisions. And as always pray for wisdom and seek counsel.” PA Family Institute.

So, dear family, your prayers and support are requested we we proceed. May God richly bless you today.

In His Service,
Shirley S. Sharpe, Chair Leadership Team
Beth Sider, Chair Worship Team

Regathering Survey Response-June 2020

Online survey: www.trinityumnc.com

Name (optional): _____

Given the constraints of limited attendance, social distancing, no singing in group settings, and wearing masks, are you anxious to get back to worshipping together in the sanctuary as soon as possible?

Or are you satisfied with worshipping at home with the online service?

Any Additional Comments: