

Scott Trinity and Union UMCs



The First Word

June 15, 2020

Drive-in church: It's coming!

Come as You are, but Stay in Your Car services coming soon



With us, as of yet, unable to gather together in person in our sanctuaries, let's do the next best thing and gather in our church parking lots (and lawns)!

On Sunday, June 28 we will gather in our cars and enjoy a unique and touching worship experience as close to together as we are able at this time. We will gather that Sunday twice so feel free to attend the service that works best for you. Union Church will gather in its parking lot at 9 am. Scott Trinity Church will gather in its parking lot at 10:30 am.

We will have an FM transmitter that broadcasts the service directly to your car radio! We will be celebrating Holy Communion together. We are asking that each vehicle brings its own bread and juice. There will be some elements available that morning but be warned the packets are rather difficult to open without spilling the juice.

We hope to see you IN PERSON for one of these special services and a unique worship experience for a more than unique time in our lives and our world!



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Church reopening plans in process

While businesses and establishments are reopening across the state, I want to be clear that reopening is more involved and difficult than simply opening our doors. There are countless details that need to be considered and addressed before we resume in-person worship again. Also, to be clear, when we do assemble again together things will need to be different. Different doesn't mean bad--in fact, my hope is many things will be the same or better--just different.

The first issue to consider is cleaning and disinfecting the buildings. This is not just a one time cleaning but after each and EVERY time the church building is used. Additionally, how we celebrate Communion will also be different. Gone--at least for now--are the days of sharing a common loaf and cup.



Singing is also an issue to be considered as the act of singing more than doubles the distance aerosolized vapor from our lungs can travel making the six-foot social distancing guideline much less effective. We also need to make considerations for keeping at least six feet between each home group, hand sanitizers, and masks.

I know some of you are not ready to come back and some of you have been ready for several weeks and some are in the middle. The decision on when to cancel or resume worship rests solely with the pastor; however, I do not desire to make any decision like this alone. I have asked several people

from each church to help me by forming a Reopening Committee. Each church is represented by its own group as each church has different circumstances involved in preparing ourselves and our buildings.

Here are the groups for each church:

SCOTT TRINITY:

Linda Swaisgood, Stefanie Hunker, Kerry Conrad, Amy Hatcher, Tim Davies Jr., Shirley Below and myself.

UNION:

Linda Hummel, Bob Johns, Marshall Burns, Lori Hummel and myself.

Please feel free to reach out to myself or any of the above members of your respective church to share ideas, concerns and any way in which you would be willing to offer your help



Zoom worship continues each Sunday morning, Wednesday evening

Here is all the information. **NOTE** these links and numbers will remain the same each week!

Worship Live!

Time: 10 am Sunday

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/611622324>

Meeting ID: 611 622 324

+13126266799,,611622324# US (Chicago)

Hymn Sing and Prayer Meetin'

Time: 6:30 pm Wednesday

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/142152604>

Meeting ID: 142 152 604

+13126266799,,142152604# US (Chicago)

Check out the STUMC Facebook pages or the website at

<http://scott-trinityumc.org> for updates and important information.

RETIREMENT CARD SHOWER

Gus Christo-Baker, one of our former pastors, is retiring this month. Please send cards of thanks for his ministry here and across West Ohio Conference at:



**Gus Christo-Baker
9410 Tahoe Dr.
Dayton, OH 45458**





A Note from Your Pastor

Psalm 100

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. 5 For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100 tells us to shout it out.

Many of us were brought up being told to do just the opposite: “Keep your voices down.” “Keep it under control.” “Don’t raise a ruckus.” Maybe you’ve told your kids—or the kids in your Sunday School class—the same thing.

But when it comes to worshipping Yahweh, Psalm 100 claims that it’s very appropriate to turn up the volume. These five verses roar with praise, employing a series of imperative verbs: shout (verse 1), worship (verse 2), enter (verses 2, 4), praise (verse 4), bless (verse 4). Taken together, these commands compel the community to participate in a high liturgical activity, namely, singing in a grand procession into God’s temple. —Joel LeMon

So we remain in the midst of COVID-19. We have seen racial tensions rise to levels not seen in well over a

generation. Powerful thunderstorms ravaged our area last week and fortunately there was no real damage done except to trees and power lines. So what in the heck do we have to sing and praise and be thankful for?

I am reminded today as I write this of the last stanza of the hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing*:

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that refuge clinging
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?*

What more can the world throw at us in this time? We have had pandemic, tension and protest, and now Mother Nature has chimed in with the first real storms of the season. What is next, a zombie apocalypse?

I find the utmost comfort in the words of the hymn and sing them aloud as I write. How can I keep from singing? What can stop me from entering the courts with praise when I know my God made me and I am His. How can I NOT sing? How can I NOT praise? How can I NOT worship and give thanks to the God who is in control even when the world and nature try to tell us otherwise? So let us all--especially in time like these--make joyful noise and sing loudly proclaiming our God to the world.

