



A Late June NEWSLETTER

Beginning In-Person Worship Services

Greetings all! We have been having very well attended zoom worship services each week. It has been great to see and hear each other. We plan to continue providing on-line services until we can all gather safely. Our bishop asked the vestries to use at least the month of June to study all the CDC extensive guidelines for services. So, the vestry has been doing some work!

We studied the guidelines and determined what it would look like for both indoor and outdoor services. We also wanted the input of the congregation. A survey was conducted, asking people about the likelihood of attending (or not) different kinds of services. About 42 households responded. 14 said they would likely attend an indoor service. 27 said yes for an outdoor service. Most said they were likely to attend zoom services, but eight added that they felt zoom is their only safe choice. The results indicated that while some would like an indoor service, more prefer outdoors.

Our original plan was to offer alternating indoor and outdoor services while continuing to have a zoom service every Sunday. But several things happened this week. First of all, we discovered that the sanctuary can accommodate far fewer than what we had anticipated – around 15 people. That would mean that reservations would need to be made so that people wouldn't come only to get turned away at the door. Then at a clergy meeting today, I learned that St. David's was perhaps the only church thinking of offering an indoor service at this time, and several clergy expressed the desire for us to move more in sync with each other as a diocese. The bishop and I had a private discussion afterwards where he asked that we hold off on the indoor services. With all the regulations around space and movement, the cost and complications for cleaning before and after every service, and then how few could attend, I agreed that we can wait a while longer.

We will however, move forward with providing some outdoor services starting every other week. It will be a chance to see each other, try something new, and I'm sure, learn a lot about what works and what doesn't work. It can't be more crazy than having to learn zoom! It will, however, be very different. Everyone will be asked to wear a mask (unless not able to do so

because of asthma) and maintain social distancing. There will be no coffee hour. Good news – we will have communion!

We all long to see each other. But there is something I cannot emphasize enough. Despite making every effort to reduce the risk of infection, there is serious risk in gathering as a group. The great majority of us are in a high risk group because of age and underlying health issues. ***If you have any reservations, hesitations, concerns about your safety – DO NOT ATTEND!*** Instead, keep coming to the Zoom services where most of us can see each other without masks, sing our hearts out even if we're off key, can chat afterwards, and be safe. The day will come when we can all safely gather in-person!

Now let me lay out some details.

- The outdoor services will be **July 5, July 19, August 16, and August 30 at 9AM.**
- The location will be in the back parking lot where there is some shade. Some cars can also park on the opposite side.
- Please wear face masks. We encourage you to bring their own chairs, although folding chairs will also be available.
- Bring your own bread for communion! We explored the different options, but the one that is the most safe by far is for people to bring their bread in a little bag and a small plate. At the time of the Eucharist, people can put their bread on the plate and hold it up when I consecrate the host. Households can break and share the bread with each other.
- In the event of rain, the outdoor service will be cancelled and people can attend zoom. If rain is in the forecast, we'll send out a cancellation notice via email and have a message to that effect on the church's answering machine.
- Kevin Smith has offered the use of a microphone and amps. We need people willing to learn how to set those up as well as helping set up the space in preparation for the service, and take down afterwards. Let me know if you'd be willing to help. Thanks!

You have all been so faithful in attendance, prayers, and giving! Even before the pandemic, many have said that these are times when the church needs to be flexible and agile. If that was true then, how much more now! Zoom has provided new ways of connecting and has allowed people to join us who had never done so before. Now let's see what doors God might open even as we begin the gradual process of opening.

Peace and all good!
Carolyn

OUTREACH

Dave Hall Fund

A 15 year old in a group foster home likes to fix bicycles and collects "Magic Cards". She was the birthday girl in June and we purchased repair tools and a box of the collection cards.

The **Bread of Life Food Pantry** at Triumphant Cross sent us a thank you card for our outreach donation of \$250. It was greatly appreciated during this time of uncertainty.

Isaiah 58 also sent us a thank you letter for the \$250 we sent it. Although the Distribution Center has been closed to the general public, people have made appointments to collect household goods and furniture. Advocacy, rental assistance, and case management services have continue to be offered.

CRAFT FAIR

During July, the vestry will need to make a decision about whether we should cancel or go ahead with the craft fair. Joanne Theriault and Lana have been contacting crafters. Some have cancelled and some have indicated that they will only attend if safety restrictions are in place – which raises for us the question being how can we enforce mask wearing and social distancing? Those in charge of the Café, the Raffle, and the Cookie walk need to look hard and discuss with their team whether and how their areas can be safely run, and whether they will have the volunteers they need. So please do that work in the next few weeks with your findings and recommendations sent to Carolyn. Thank you!