



The Pastor's Ponderings

Here it is! Nearly mid-June, it is hot and wet and humid and gloriously summery! Or as the medieval round goes:

*Sumer is icumen in
Now sing we loud, cuckoo!
The seed is growing
The meadow blooming,
The wood is come to leaf,
Cuckoo, Cuckoo!
Sing we Merrily, cuckoo!*

Well... perhaps we aren't prancing around and singing "Cuckoo" either, merrily or otherwise. However these months of quarantine and self-isolation may have us feeling a bit cuckoo. Or at least a little stir crazy.

Now, I can't speak for you, but I for one long to be eating out at my favorite restaurants, or going to summer barbecues with neighbors and friends, or floating down the Lazy River at the newly reopened water park!

But most of all for me, I miss worshipping and gathering with **you**. After all, you all are the reason I am here!

My love for you all, and my concern for the health of every member and friend is *also* the reason that I have pushed for a later start when it comes to beginning in-person and indoor worship.

Naturally, I am not alone in my concern for the health and well being of the congregation as when the Board met in April and May, it determined that it was still too soon to re-start worship while new cases were still on the rise.

We felt it was wise to observe the effects of viral spread as our state re-opened, and then some few churches returned to indoor meetings.

In the past couple weeks, some (some - though by no means all) churches with significant amounts of space for safe distancing, and limited numbers of worshippers have begun meeting again inside.

This makes some folk more eager than ever to move right back inside.

The Board has been closely observing the situation and in May it was determined that we needed the month of June to see if there were any significant exposure blooms related to church gatherings (as there have been in the past).

The Board and Diaconate will be meeting next Tuesday, June 16, to discuss how and when we will begin worshipping indoors and in person. We will keep you apprised of all decisions via the newsletter and Facebook page.

Now when we return to indoor worship (whether that is July 12, later in the month or even sometime in August) it will not be worship as usual; there will be some necessary changes to our worship.

For instance:

- We will enter one family or individual at a time - which may necessitate standing in a line with designated spots to facilitate safe distancing.
- At the door, a greeter will welcome you and take your temp with a scanning thermometer. Anyone with a significant temperature (over 100.3) will be asked to return home, or worship by live broadcast using a phone or pad in their car.

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- Each person will be required to don a mask if they aren't already wearing one. Masks will be worn by all for the sake and safety of our most vulnerable worshippers. (*Several of our members have been sewing masks for months now, so you will not only look snazzy, the masks will be infused with love.*)
- Next you will be asked to sanitize your hands before entering the sanctuary.
- A greeter will then escort you to your seat(s). Families and households, including caregivers, will be seated together.
- We may have paper bulletins, prepared with mask and gloves, or we may use the projection screen for our order of worship.
- You'll be asked to bring your own Bible if you so wish, as there will be no books in the worship space.
- We won't be singing, as singing has been determined to be one of the most dangerous forms of interaction when indoors. However, we **will** have instrumental music, *and* terrific music videos featuring our much loved New Life Singers and Barefoot on Sunday, as well as solos and instrumental pieces.
- The message will be shorter than usual (I don't expect any complaints there!)
- You may be asked to bring bread and juice from home for a while in order to practice safe Communion. In time, we will move to a more traditional style of Communion, still prepared so no human hands or breath will have touched the Elements.

So there you go, it won't be our *usual* worship service, but it *will* be wonderful!

Why? Because we will be together! Because we will be worshipping our wondrous God with grateful hearts! Because we are a Family of Faith following in the way of Jesus!

How much better does it get?

As we wait with baited breath to hear when our new and exciting indoor worship will begin, I am *bursting with excitement* to announce an event coming up almost immediately at Abbey Road Christian Church!

Here it Comes!! You are invited to a

Safely Distanced
Worshipful Work Morning
In the Gardens and The Labyrinth
of
Abbey Road Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
On June 21, 2020
from 7:30 am til 9:30 am

You will be invited to come (at any time) with your own masks and yard work tools, gloves and folding chairs or knee pads in order to weed and tidy and work and chat all at a safe distance!

Those who can't or don't care to garden are invited to sit in the shade of an easy-up, where self-serve iced water, lemonade and donuts will be offered.

At 9:00 we'll close with a safe distance Prayer Circle and Closing Song!

Come join us! Join the fun and fellowship, visit and chat *and* at the same time, contribute to the beauty of our wonderful ARCC Labyrinth!

There will be other outdoor events coming up. Stay Tuned!

Missing You!

Pastor F



**ABBEY ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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2020 Board of Elders Officers

Chair: Jim Main
Chair-Elect: Leslee Pollina
Past Chair: Steven Piker
Finance Chair: Deborah Balsano
Board Secretary: Judy McLain
Trustee Chair: Dennis Underwood
Elder At-Large: Darla Snider

- ◇ A donation to the Food Bank has been made by Dennis & Barbara Underwood in memory of their son, Mark, for his birthday
- ◇ The intent for **June 14's Meditation/Centering Prayer** is **Tolerance**

 Dear Abbey Road members,

Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, calls, cards, emails & texts during my pre-surgery, surgery, and recovery.

It's wonderful to know that I have a church family backing me at all times—good and bad.

God's blessing to each and everyone.

Felicia

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CHILDREN'S MARCH 06.14.20

6PM SIGN MAKING TEACH-IN

6:30 RALLY FEATURING VOICES OF AREA YOUNG PEOPLE

7:00 CHILDREN'S MARCH

7:30 YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT DEMONSTRATION ON FREEDOM CORNER



Worship Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in participating in Worship?

Volunteers are needed for lay worship leaders to record the call to worship or passing of the peace, to read scripture, for offering or Communion elements.

Contact Pastor Elaine (562-396-8039; pastorelaines@gmail.com) to volunteer.




John & Deborah Browne, Luther Hunt, Maxie McKenzie & family, Mark Faith, Bill Cox, Joe Robb Blattner, Debbie McCormick, Susan Spooler, Carol Gleason, Liz Meyer, Debbie Bradley, Dawn Knoderer, Kim Farrar Frank, George & Helen Amick, Iris Likens, Pat Murray & Wally Allstun, Ed Sheridan & Nita Brackin, Pauline Filla, Martha D., Mary Hendrix, Ken Bohnsack, Wayne Piker, Kim Wells Schott, frontline workers, Felicia Fox, Henry S., Gerry Thomason, Wynema Gatewood, relatives & friends serving in the military, all who are hurting, lonely, and afraid.

Do you have someone to add to our prayer list? Please inform the church office or fill out a form found at the back of the sanctuary.

