



August 2020

Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF Mohawk United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER — AUGUST 2020

From Our Pastor

REOPENING II: *Into the Future-Together*

Our hybrid worship services continue, having services both online, over FM radio, and in person. The day after our last in-person-only service, we had to radically alter course. COVID-19 forced us to really look at what it means to be The Church - what being The Church looks like during a world-wide pandemic.

This strange period we're in made us take a hard look at how we can be The Church in a very new and different world. We were compelled to adapt. We had to change. Oh, it wasn't easy! The best things seldom are. But we did it.

We went from a "normal" worship service on March 15 to worshipping online only just one week later. Since then, we started online Sunday school sessions and held a four week Bible study. We began Zoom committee meetings, too, and our FM-transmitted "Drive-In Church" successfully began. We had to get creative to do things we had taken for granted, things that connected us.

If it wasn't for COVID-19, would we have started online worship? Worship over FM radio? Would we have started holding meetings, Bible studies, and Sunday school sessions on Zoom? Probably not for years is my guess.

Let me take a moment to congratulate you--us--the Mohawk congregation, for doing all that we have done to stay together and safe and active as a

faith community. I have several colleagues who have been on a similar path, but they have had some loud voices of dissention. That hasn't happened here, thank the Lord. I believe it is because we all understand that we're in it together and that we're doing the best we can for one another. As you may have heard me say before, It's okay to disagree, but it's not okay to disagree disagreeably. Thank you for your genuine humility, love, care, and civility toward one another.

In Philippians 2:1-4, Paul seems to have spelled out what we have been doing already: *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

Our strength is not that we all think alike but that we all think together.

Stay safe. Be cautious with your health and generous with your love.

His,

Pastor Kerry



Thank you!

3D Class,

Thank you SO much for the gift certificates. We plan to add a bike rack on the back of the motorhome for our camping adventures. It was so nice of you to think of us.

God Bless,
The Schencks

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the extra love and prayers during my recent surgery. I really appreciate the cards and well wisher, too! So far I'm getting along just fine! I'm so blessed to have all of you as my church family.

Lots of love,
Katie Hooker

Dear Scrip Table & MUMC family,

Thank you so much for the gift card. We are so blessed with a loving and caring church family.

God bless,
The Schencks

WORSHIP PLANS DURING PASTOR'S VACATION

Pastor Kerry and Lynne will be vacationing August 24-September 7. The Worship Committee has made the following worship plans while they are gone:

Sunday, August 30: Mr. Dan Bauer will bring us the message and Children's Message. It will otherwise be a "normal" worship service in person and online.

Sunday, September 6: We will **ONLY WORSHIP ONLINE**. Pastor Kerry will pre-record a short service that includes prayer, a Children's Message, and a sermon. It will be on our Viral Church Channel to be viewed starting at 9:00am on Sunday, September 6. **THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY, ONLY ONLINE.** Please make note of these changes.

***SORRY*
TEMPORARILY CLOSED**

BUILDING USE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Our Trustees confirmed that our church building will not be open for any group to meet through September. Trustees will review this decision in future meetings. This is not an ideal situation, and is being done to keep everyone safe.



- Aug 2 Lorraine Ewing**
- Aug 6 Gerald Phares**
- Aug 17 Nora Blair**
- Aug 20 Tim Plank**
- Aug 27 Tammy Westcott**
- Aug 30 Leisa Harmon,
Rick McFarland**
- Aug 31 Brooke Lane**



- Aug 4 Blake & Ashley Thompson**
- Aug 15 Rick & Audra McFarland**
- Aug 18 Armin & Sherry Apple**
- Aug 27 Ben & Connie Wilson**
- Aug 29 Chuck & Leeann Dix**

DON'T FORGET! We are still collecting caps for benches, so do not forget to keep collecting them. We are beginning to get more now that the church is open for worship, but still need lots.



OUR CURRENT GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP

We do these out of love and care for one another.

- “Drive-In Church” (99.9 on FM radio) and live-stream of worship (Viral Church Channel) are two alternatives instead of in-person worship.
- If you are in one or more of the CDC high-risk categories, are or might be ill, or are just not ready to worship in person, you are encouraged to worship online from home or at Drive-In Church.

IF YOU ARE WORSHIPING IN PERSON:

- Masks must be worn at all times in the building.
- Our entire building is appropriately disinfected/cleaned thoroughly each week.
- Our sanctuary, restrooms, and Fellowship Hall are the only rooms open on Sundays. Everything else is closed.
- Sanctuary seating will be from the front to the rear, and dismissal will be from the rear to the front.
- Our Fellowship Hall is an additional worship area. Chairs are six (6) feet apart, though families may pull chairs closer to sit together.
- Our Administrative Council meets every two weeks to review our situation.
- Guideline changes will be made by a vote of the Administrative Council. The changes will be made known by email, Facebook, and announced in worship.

CHARGE CONFERENCE: SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Charge Conference has been set for Monday, November 16, at 6:30pm. It is currently scheduled to be held at Trinity Park UMC, though that may change. All committee/team chairs should attend, but all others are welcome. There will be more information coming as we get closer, but for now, please save the date.

TRUSTEE WORK DAY

A Trustee Work Day is scheduled for **Saturday, August 8**. If you can come by any time between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, you can help clean up, fix up, or pick up.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND GROW

We must work together to keep offering great worship services. Will you help? We have three specific needs:

- Greeters,
- Song Leader/Liturgist/Acolytes,
- Sound Room techs for running our live-stream and for running slides and the sound board.

You will be trained! To step up and serve, contact Pastor Kerry by phone or email, or go to our online sign up page, at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4caba923a0fe3-mumc>. This is an opportunity to stretch, to grow in your capabilities as you serve God and our congregation.



FARMER'S MARKET OPPORTUNITY

North UMC in Indianapolis has a farmer's market on the first and third Thursdays of the month, 4:00-6:30pm. They are short on vendors. The North UMC pastor offered to reimburse folks for gas and also provide a tent, table, chairs, etc. if need be. If you're interested, contact North UMC's Pastor Darren Cushman-Woods at 317-966-2160, or Pastor Kerry at kerry.obrien@inumc.org or 574-780-5788.

Mohawk United Methodist Church

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My soul finds rest in God alone...

Psalm 62:1