



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

August 31, 2020

Metro District In-Person Worship Update



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Chapel Hill UMC

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With a new school year underway and football leagues at (almost) every level making plans to begin a fall season, many of us are wondering if now is the time to resume in-person worship services or other kinds of ministry gatherings in our Metro District churches.

I have continued to monitor very closely the numbers of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in Texas and Dallas County specifically. As of today, Texas is reporting fewer than 5,000 persons hospitalized with COVID-19 for the first time since June. In Dallas County, new cases have been trending downward since mid-July with an average of about 500 new cases each day.

While these numbers are encouraging, the number of new cases per 100,000 residents remains higher in Dallas County as compared to nearby Denton, Collin and Rockwall Counties; the positivity rate in Texas remains high at 13.5%; Dallas ISD has elected to postpone in-person classes until October; and a very high percentage of the residents in Dallas County are part of groups especially vulnerable to contracting the virus.

Based on all these factors taken together and with a great deal of prayerful discernment, I have decided that United Methodist churches in the Metro District will remain closed for indoor, in-person worship gatherings for the month of September. I understand that many in your congregations are yearning to return to worship in your sanctuaries, but my highest value in this situation is to do no harm and to do our part to safeguard the health and well-being of people in our churches and our communities.

That said, in light of the downward trends noted above, I would recommend that churches begin preparing in earnest to reopen their doors for indoor, in-person worship as early as October.

Continued on the back...



Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	Sandy Ball
The Gee Family	Neal Ellis
Jocelyn Barnard	Jordan Moll
Scott Fletcher	Donna Daggett
Jennie Leamons	Those affected by COVID-19:
Tom Sanders	Nurses and Doctors
Charles Cancellare	All patients in hospitals
The Rigsby Family	Families who have lost people and cannot have funerals
David Rice	First responders
Peggy Shoemaker	Medical personnel who are working
Robbyn Smith (Cranford)	Parents of students
Loretta Culp	Senior citizens in nursing homes
Jordan Hammett	Students and teachers taking classes online
The Ditino Family	Those who have lost jobs
The Family of Anne Thweatt Townes	
Jennifer and James	

Worship Update Part 3

- Wearing masks is safer than being unmasked and must be required.

My prayers continue to be with you as you navigate these uncharted waters. Thank you for your faithful leadership, and I look forward to being with you virtually at Annual Conference!

Peace –



Michael McKee

Worship Update Part 2

If you haven't already, please assemble a team, make a plan in keeping with the guidelines from the Texas Department of State Health Services, and share your plan with your district superintendent using the attached form.

Many of you also have asked about the possibility of hosting meetings or doing ministry at your churches other than worship. To help you make the wisest decisions for your setting, I want to offer you some best practices that I believe should guide your planning:

- Smaller groups are safer than larger groups;
- Shorter gatherings are safer than longer gatherings;
- Outdoor gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings;
- Large rooms with good circulation are safer than small rooms; and

While we are unable to gather, please remember CHUMC still has expenses. Please continue to make your faith pledge offerings by mail by sending them directly to our treasurer, Jan Wooldridge, at 12930 Mitchwin Road, Farmers Branch, TX 75234.

Please send prayer requests to Alec and Adam at office@chapelhillumc.org. Please note, the office is closed during the week, so the phone is not being checked. If you are unable to email, please ask someone with email to send your information to the office email or contact J.D. at (972) 467-7756.

In the case of a pastoral care emergency, please contact J.D. at (972) 467-7756.

BIRTHDAY REMINDER: Please let our church office know your birthdate, mm/dd/yyyy, so your church family can acknowledge your special day. **Your 'year' will remain private:** office@chapelhillumc.org



Walter Ochoa 9/11	Beth Laney 9/14
Beverly Holmes 9/15	Glorie Romine 9/16
Nancy Hartman 9/17	Felice Ricks 9/21
Joanne Marchant 9/22	Nancy Ochoa 9/23
Roxanne Rawdon 9/23	Kaye Bandy 9/26
Emily Metzger 9/28	Ruth Medcalf 9/29

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