June 24, 2020

Our doors will be open again on July 5th.

GOOD MORNING ALL!

Our Vestry has confirmed that service will resume at St. James on July 5th. Our first in-person service will be held at 10:00am with Fr. Rob Willmann presiding. It will be followed by an 11:00am Zoom service with Rev. Susan Riis presiding. At this time, it is my understanding that Wednesday evening services will continue on Zoom. The Vestry, Fr. Rob, and Rev. Riis are continuing their discussions on expanding the in-person services.

However, unfortunately, our elevator is still down!

As you can tell from the letter (a copy is at the end of the newsletter) sent to you by Barbara Saunders and the list of preparations and changes that have been included in the newsletter, things will be different. Every effort has been made to ensure your health and safety, though there is always a risk to contract the Covid-19 virus. If you feel unsure or unsafe venturing out – know that your church leadership is considering possibilities to meet your spiritual needs. You are most welcome to let any of them know your thoughts and suggestions.

Whether you join in person, continue Zoom, or continue your own private service, the Lord is with us all and is providing us our daily bread.

If I can assist any of you in any way, please let me know!

OTHER CHANGES ~

During the past few months, the mail for St. James has been held at the US Post Office. This has provided a level of security for correspondence and checks that can not be provided by our external mailbox. To that end, I will be renting a post office box. I will of course share that information with you once it has been established.

At the present I will be continuing to work primarily from home. Workdays in the St. James office will be scheduled as needed.
I have been notified by the Diocese of Southern Ohio, that I will need to change our web site. Our current site is provided through a contract the Diocese has with Digital Faith. I’m one of the last users on this site and it apparently is extremely expensive. The IT person for the Diocese will be in contact with me to help me move things. Again, I’ll pass that information on as it occurs.

**MUSIC ~**
Our guest cantor this week is Tyson Kumorowski. He will be singing an original song.

**CHRIS COLLINS ~** Chris has indicated that she has both child size and adult size masks if you need of one.

**PLEDGES/DONATIONS ~**
The alms plate will be stationary once in person services begin. You are however still welcome to send any donations for the church to my address, 445 Moore Ave.

**FRIENDSHIP DINNER ~**
We will continue to prepare takeout meals as long as the current restrictions are in place in Ohio. Our June dinner is scheduled for June 27. Please continue to pray for this St. James outreach to the community. Any financial donations are welcome to help to continue this outreach program.

**IʼLL CONTINUE TO POST THIS FOR YOUR REFERENCE.**
Preparations for opening continue and are progressing.

**Opening date and what that looks like -**
Vestry held a special meeting on Monday night to move toward having in church services. It was decided that the opening date would be **July 5th**.

Here’s what it is projected to look like:

1. Fr. Willmann and one cross bearer will do the 10:00 service – Zoom services will continue in some form. More information on other services will follow once that has been established. The possibility of live streaming of the service is being investigated.
2. Morning Prayers will continue.
3. No choir though a cantor will be present. Response readings will continue.
4. One reader, to limit the number of persons using any of the microphones.
5. Masks are encouraged. Disposable masks will be available.
6. Sanitizing station will be available.
7. Bulletins will continue to be emailed. Please consider bringing your own or using a media device to follow the service. A few no-touch bulletins will be provided.
8. Families, of course, may sit together but the congregation needs to be aware and seat themselves according to social distancing guidelines. If you’re unsure, please talk with the usher.
9. There will only be one usher. The usher will have the doors opened both before and after the service. The usher will also dismiss the congregation row by row –
again to aid in social distancing.
(10) The collection plate will be stationary and not passed.
(11) There will be no coffee hour. If you would like to “gather” socially, please consider joining us for one of our zoom services.

A COPY OF THE REOPENING LETTER SENT BY BARBARA SAUNDERS
St. James in the Covid pandemic, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. James,

This letter comes to you at this time to explain the changes we all will see and experience at our worship services. Given the challenges this virus causes, the Diocese has mandated procedures that are necessary to keep the contact of the illness at bay. Here is a list of what will change:

There will be only one service every Sunday at 10 a.m. The first service will be July 5th. Zoom services will continue at 11 a.m. More information on other services will follow once that has been established. The possibility of live streaming of the service is being investigated. Morning Prayers will continue.

The doors will be open at entering and again at the end of the service. This is to prevent multiple touching by all. Doors will be closed during the service.

There will be only one usher (possibly two if needed). Ushers will be wearing masks & gloves.

Masks are encouraged. Disposable masks will be available. A sanitizing station will be available as well.

Seating: Families may sit together but the congregation needs to be aware and seat themselves according to social distancing guidelines (6’ apart). Members of the same household may sit together. If you are unsure, please talk to the usher.

Because of a touch-free environment, all books & hymnals have been removed from the pews.

Bulletins will continue to be e-mailed. Please consider bringing your own printed copy or using a media device to follow the service. Your own Book of Common Prayer is fine too. A few printed copies of the bulletin will be available.

No choir will be present though a cantor will sing. Response readings will continue.

Only one reader to limit the number of persons using any of the microphones.

Communion is a common gathering place which is not recommended by the Diocese. Since we will not be having communion, Morning Prayer will be the worship. Many other churches are avoiding communion during this time too.

For the Peace it is recommended that we look at others and nod, wave, or slight bow. We can say “peace be with you,” but our smiles will be hidden by masks.

Exiting from the service will occur from the back of the church. This is in keeping the 6 feet distance from others sitting on the aisle. The usher will release the back row first before advancing back each row. This is the opposite of going up to communion.
There will be no coffee hour. If you would like to “gather” socially, please consider joining us for one of our zoom services.

This pandemic will not be with us forever and we must remain strong in our efforts to stay healthy. We love the spirituality of our elaborate service at St. James and our love of friends too. Being together in this type of “reduced” worship is still beneficial for our mental and spiritual health. God knows our intention in our hearts to worship Him even in these circumstances. If absence makes the heart grow stronger, think how joyous it will be to return fully to celebrating communion in communion with all.

Pray for the whole world and for those greatly affected by this illness. Pray for the researchers to find a vaccine. Pray for your health and for the love of your family.

Barbara Saunders
Jr. Warden

JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

4 Jon Lanning
5 Kennedy Smith
6 Nadia Abood
7 Jane Donoho
   Abigail Baldwin (Stewart)
   Olivia Baldwin (Stewart)
9 Trey Smith
16 Nannette Sherman
   Sabrina Nicodemus
17 Tom Ischy
   Jasmine Preston
20 Howard Brown
23 Wendy Gillespie

ANNIVERSARIES

1  Randy & Amy Bradley
7  Chris & Jeanette Benson
13 Jeffery & Diann Fish (McElhaney)
17 Howard & Margaret Brown
25 Lee and Michelle Dayton
25 Tom and Melissa Bixler