

Greetings all,

It is with joy in this season of new life that I can share that your elected leaders, at our Church Council meeting last night, voted unanimously to remove the "registration" requirement at this time. We listened to the new county recommendations/requirements and trends, and considered our attendance numbers from 2018 and 2019. All of that and good conversation convinced us that we can return to worship without fear of numbers that would prevent us from staying appropriately distanced. The timing of all of this could have been better, but the reality was we did have to be cautious about Palm Sunday and Easter. Thank you for understanding.

The church will still look and likely feel different than it did in early March of 2020. We are still recommending everyone wear a mask. Our singing and our communal prayers makes that important. As you enter the sanctuary, bulletins will be on a small table for you to take if you choose to do so. Half of the pews are marked, "not available." I will not be asking for you to share joys and concerns. Prayer request cards are on the information desk as you enter. Please fill one out if you have a prayer you would like shared and hand it to an usher.

Children will have "children's church" after our "time with the children" starting this Sunday. They will be lead to the Aldersgate Room by the adult leaders. Here is the link to sign up on line to help anytime from April 11-June.

SHUMC Nursery/Children's Church helpers...

Please click on the following web link (or copy it into your web browser if clicking doesn't work) to go to the signup sheet: volunteersignup.org/CWDAH

To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do. Thank you for being part of this important ministry.!

To become a Certified Volunteer go to: www.safegatherings.com
Questions: Contact Cecelia Resnik thumbelina66@sbcglobal.net

One more reality, as we return to in-person, is that it is not yet a good idea to share a "fellowship time" together. We are not sure when that will be, but we can and will look forward to a time when sharing some treats and conversations around tables will no longer be risky behavior. Extended post-worship conversations in the sanctuary and the parking lot will have to do for now.

I also want you to know that we had a very good Harvesters Distribution last Saturday. We served over 700 individuals. Some of our neighbors to the east are still disappointed with the disruption the line of cars causes on the days of the distribution. We will continue to work to move the line as quickly as possible. And, Mission Team is looking to reducing the distribution to one time a month starting in June. Do consider coming to help on Saturday the 17th. The start time is 2:00. We will start sooner, if possible.

During this pandemic all of us have had to stay flexible and do what we do differently. Sometimes, that was successful; sometimes we had to rethink our plans and methods. Our Facebook Live has reconnected us with some who are no longer able to

attend worship and has extended those who are part of our worship far beyond the boundaries of Topeka. Our on-line views for the past four weeks were 183, 102, 114 and 120. It is a new way of making disciples and connecting with and welcoming others. We will have some decisions to make going into the future. We need to upgrade our technology if we are to continue to be an on-line presence.

I look forward to welcoming many of you to worship this Sunday. The scripture is 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11. It is the earliest mention of resurrection in our New Testament. This is the text I referred to in the Easter sermon last Sunday. The sermon this week is titled, "God Chose to Act."

Stumbling forward, hoping for grace...

In Christ's love, *Barb*