

First United Methodist Church

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So, are you ready for the grand debut of the repaired sanctuary? I know many of you are! I know for some of you, you've been waiting years for this project to be completed. I'm pleased that this project has finally been accomplished and that I was able to be a part of it with you. A lot of time, effort, and energy has gone into this project by so many dedicated people in our church family. It is all our hope and desire that this "face lift" to the sanctuary will last for many years and generations to come, helping to draw people into a closer connection with God.

As I've mentioned previously, this "Sanctuary" project has forced us out of our comfort zone, which isn't always easy for people. This experience has forced us to try some new things; new worship service times, new place to worship, different places to sit, and even worshipping with some new people. This experience even helped us to experience what it's like to worship in a really FULL space a couple of times.

I want you to know that I'm proud of this church family and how you've handled this situation. I have heard very little (amazingly little!!) complaining about the "inconvenience or change" that has been experienced by our church family during the past three months. We have all adapted to a temporary "new normal" quite well. And the truth is, this experience has been good for our church family, I believe.

As we prepare to move our 8:30 and 11:00 am services back in to the main sanctuary, I do hope that we will remember to take with us the sense of closeness that has developed over the past 3 months. Like it or not, worshipping in the chapel helped us to get closer, literally and figuratively, to one another. It is going to seem so odd, at least to begin with, to have so much distance or space between where I stand, while leading worship, and where the closest people are sitting. ☺

We have all had a bit of a sense of adventure as we've entered into and experienced this project together. It is my hope that as we enter the next chapter of church family life together that we will keep that same sense of adventure. Maybe we can all try sitting in different places in the sanctuary, just to see and experience our worship space from different perspectives. During the 8:30 service, it would be so helpful if everyone sat in the forward section of the sanctuary. We'd be able to better hear one another as we sing, it would lend a greater sense of closeness in our worship experience, and the benefit from a video or broadcast side is that it would make it appear to those joining us on-line that there are people in the sanctuary participating in the worship service with them.

I am really looking forward to Sunday!!! I am looking forward to seeing your faces and your reactions to the "new look" of the sanctuary with all the repair work completed! I am looking forward to seeing how in the coming weeks, months, and years our repaired worship space is able to help connect people with our great God! I am looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday!!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Remember, for the 8:30 service we're all going to gather in the Johnson Gathering Area to wait for a magnificent organ prelude to begin. Then the sanctuary doors will open wide and we'll all be a part of the Palm Sunday procession, waving palm branches and giving glory to God!! The children have a special Palm Sunday song for us...and there are several other pieces of special music planned for our 8:30 and 11:00 am services. Our 9:50 service will still be held in the chapel. Come join us! Bring a friend! It's going to be a great Sunday!!

