

# **COVID-19 Safety Precaution UPDATE**

**11/24/2020**

The safety of those in our congregation and the community is our utmost concern because loving our neighbor means doing everything we can to keep them safe! The changing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to establish new safety precautions for the use of the church building to carry out the mission of New Life United Methodist Church. Some of those changes are:

- A dramatic increase in the number of daily confirmed COVID-19 cases in Montcalm County. Two week average is around 30 per day. Similar increases in all our surrounding counties (See Graph below for Montcalm County)
- New guidelines issued 11/15/2020 from the Michigan Dept. Of Health and Human Services prohibiting indoor gatherings at non-residential venues until Dec. 8. We, a church, are not legally bound by these guidelines yet these are in place to protect us and those we serve. (See link in References below)
- Bishop David Bard's words in his letter to the United Methodist churches in Michigan: "I am asking you in the strongest way possible to refrain from in-person indoor worship for the Advent and Christmas seasons.". (See link to entire letter in References below)
- We had at least one person who tested positive for COVID-19 a few days after they were in worship without symptoms on Nov. 8.
- Several major healthcare systems in our area close to reaching their maximum capacity due to the rapid rise in COVID-19 patients.

## **The following safety precautions are in place at this time:**

- 1. The New Life United Methodist Church office and building remain closed to all but essential ministry persons through Dec 8. This will be reevaluated on or before Dec. 8.**
- 2. Worship through the end of 2020 will be on-line only, with NO in-person worship. Please see the RESOURCES section below for links to on-line worship. This will be reevaluated prior to the end of the year.**

If you have any questions, please contact me via email [pastortim.nlumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastortim.nlumc@gmail.com) or phone (616) 401-8853.

Pastor Tim