



First United Methodist Church

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STAFF

September 17, 2020

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Hello First Church!

The Church Council wanted to send out a status update to everyone on where we sit with regards to the COVID-19 response. We know it is difficult to live in this remote mode we are all in, and we want you to know we are actively trying to bring us all back together.

Please know the Lay Leadership, via the Rapid Response Team, has been meeting weekly to stay apprised of the latest trends and status within the Ames community, as well as the larger State and Country data. The landscape changes almost daily in this regard, and we are trying to stay out in front on this.

Going forward, we will apply the Ames Community School District's (ACSD) approach to determine if we hold in-person worship. If the ACSD goes to 100% remote learning on a Friday, then FUMC will not hold in-person worship on the following Sunday. If ACSD allows any form of in-person learning on a Friday, then we will hold worship on the following Sunday. We feel ACSD, with its greater resources and contacts, is in a better position to make these sorts of decisions. Please note, all CFIM and Youth activities will continue to only be offered online, as will most Adult Ministry groups. Please also refer to the Phased Re-Opening flyer for our guidelines for progressing through this pandemic.

Regardless of our in-person plans, the 8:30am worship will remain as Live Streaming only. In-person worship will only be offered during the normal 11:00am second service.

We are now targeting Sunday, September 27, as our date for re-opening worship within our sanctuary! We are hopeful COVID trends will allow us to hold that date. This will be a different worship than normal, and we will adhere to all precautionary measures (social distancing, masks, etc.). We will provide more details in a later update. To make this work, we will also need **6 volunteers** for every service to assist with seating, sanitizing, greeting, etc. We all want to get back together, so please volunteer to support us in this regard.

May Peace find you during this season of challenge!

Council Co-Chairs,


Matt Carney Sharon Boen