

The Wesleyan

SUMMER 2020

Honey Brook United Methodist Church

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SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

WORSHIP: 10:45 AM

NO FELLOWSHIP TIME FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

FROM THE PASTOR

You should have already received this information but I included it here as well....

Blessings to you in the name of the Lord from your church family at Honey Brook United Methodist Church. We are sending you this letter to wish you well and also to inform you of the plans that have been made to “reopen” the church and to begin worshipping in person on Sunday mornings.

There have been a number of conflicting priorities throughout these unusual times. We enjoy seeing each other on Sunday mornings and the support and fellowship we receive from one another is an important part of our Christian walk. We Ignite the Light through our relationships with each other (Jesus said it this way in John 13:35 “The world will know that you are My Disciples by your love for each other.”)

At the same time, we recognize the need to be mindful of the safety and welfare of one another. And we are told to respect our leaders and obey the appropriate laws. With those things in mind, we have made health and safety our first priority and respected the wishes of our District and Conference leaders by keeping the church closed until Chester County was moved into the “yellow zone” by Governor Wolf.

We are happy to say that we are now ready to resume “in person” worship services on **Sunday June 7, 2020**. But as you probably know, in order to continue to keep everyone as safe as possible, and follow the suggestions of the Eastern PA Conference, we must have some guidelines and precautions in place. It is certainly possible that things will change as we travel this road together but at this point, we ask you to consider those around you in the following ways:

- 1. Please do not attend worship services if you are feeling sick or experiencing chills, fever, headache or any other symptoms related to covid-19**
- 2. Use your best judgment if you are part of a population group that has been identified as high risk for covid-19.**
It may very well be best if you do not attend at this time as the situation remains uncertain.
- 3. Please maintain the 6 foot distancing standard at all times.**
- 4. Approximately half of the pews will be blocked off in the sanctuary.**
Please sit only in those that are not blocked off. Family members may sit together in a pew but we ask all non-related persons to sit in separate rows. If there is insufficient seating to properly distance ourselves in the sanctuary, there will be “overflow” seating in Fellowship Hall.
- 5. We will continue to offer our worship services online for those who do not attend in person.**
This is a work in progress as we adjust to our new situation. It is likely that we will

have to make some changes and improvements as we go. Thank you for your grace and patience.

6. We will not be using bulletins, hymnals or pew Bibles.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible. The songs and worship order will be projected on to the screen. sent via email each week. Announcements and prayer requests will continue to be sent via email.

7. We are requiring everyone to please wear a mask while inside the church building.

Cloth masks will be available for those who need them.

8. We will have a “song leader” for congregational singing and ask that all members of the congregation keep their masks on and sing softly to themselves during the songs.

9. Offering plates will be kept in the rear of the Sanctuary.

Please place your offering in the containers as you exit at the conclusion of the service.

10. We will announce Communion a week or two in advance.

We will serve communion using disposable containers. You are also welcome to bring your own bread and juice to be used for communion on that Sunday.

11. There will be no Sunday School or staffed Nursery at this point.

Along with EUMC and New Holland UMC, we are currently working on an online VBS for this summer. There is more information about VBS included in this newsletter.

12. Please clean the faucet handles, door knobs and anything else you touch before and after using the restrooms. Bleach wipes will be provided.

13. We will not offer snacks, coffee or a time of fellowship following the worship service at this point.

14. Greeters at the doors will record the attendance each Sunday.

This will enable us to contact worshipers in case there is a positive covid-19 test. The greeters will also offer hand sanitizer to each individual.

15. Outside doors will be propped open until the service starts and again at the end of the service. Interior doors will be kept open unless the air conditioner is being used. In that case, the greeters will open and close the sanctuary doors while wearing gloves.

16. Please use wipes to wipe down the armrests and buttons of the chair lift before and after use.

17. Please contact the church office via phone or email if you are planning to attend the service on Sunday, June 7. This will help us to be as prepared as possible.

We realize that some will choose not to attend because of these guidelines. Others will be reluctant to attend because of health and safety concerns or for other reasons. We understand and stress that we continue to be the Body of Christ, whether we are together physically, or spiritually.

Whether or not you are attending “in person”, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Ray or the church office with prayer concerns and any other Pastoral needs

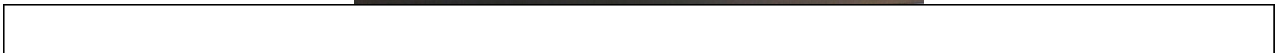
Thank you for your faithfulness and for continuing to uphold Honey Brook United Methodist with your prayers, presence (one way or another), gifts, service and witness.

We remain in prayer for everyone’s physical, emotional and spiritual health.

God is good all the time!

Pastor Ray and the Honey Brook UMC Connecting Team

THANK YOU TO DAVE, BRANDON, CATHY AND EMILY AND EVERYONE WHO MAKES SURE WE HAVE SOUND AND VIDEOS DURING OUR SERVICES. YOU ALL DO A GREAT JOB! WE WILL NOW BE NEEDING FOLKS TO HELP WITH THE LIVESTREAMING OR RECORDING AS WELL.





While the sermon schedule has changed, we will eventually get to this series on God and money

God blesses us with all that we need to get by in this world but then the way we use those blessings says a whole lot about how serious we are about following Him.

I hope we all find these sermons to be enlightening and challenging as well!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

HONEY BROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH has been participating in OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD and filling shoeboxes for many years and we have been pleased to help in this way. But is there anything we could do differently to pack more boxes, and reach more children and families in order to spread the presence of Jesus?

Well, I have read many articles from Samaritan's Purse including one about how God used a small Texas church to bless many thousands of children and I thought, why not us? Here are some thoughts and details.

The 51 members of Grace Baptist Church in Wild peach Texas packed 11,139 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for boys and girls in need across the world. That number equals more than 218 children per member who had a chance to hear the good news of Jesus Christ during the coming months. Church leadership does not take credit for this incredible work- all the glory goes to God for doing big things with seemingly small resources. "It's God doing amazing things. We know I's not us-it's the Lord."

At first, they were asking the wrong, though practical question. How many shoeboxes can we afford to pack? But then God told them to start asking a different question. Instead of asking "what can we afford?" we asked, "God, what do You want us to do?" The next year the church set a goal to pack more than 500 boxes!!

I wonder, is God calling Honey Brook United Methodist Church to set a goal and pack and collect shoeboxes all year long? Let's get started! We will set up a display and workspace, collect supplies whenever they are on sale, put the boxes together with messages to the boys and girls and then keep going with more boxes and everyone involved. We can involve the boy scouts and girl scouts and other community groups and fill even more boxes! Think big! We can even go to Baltimore to the processing center to pack the boxes for their trip all over the world

This is a church wide project! No donation is too big or too small. Everyone can join in as we do the Lord's work! Look for the display and workspace and be a part of sharing the presence of Christ around the world and in our own backyard!

Thank you for prayers and participation!

From Linda Leisey



Thanks to everyone for helping keep our church building and grounds clean! Thanks especially to our tenant, Amanda, who has been volunteering her time to clean the church!



All Aboard for VBS July 12th – July 16th!!!

This summer, we are teaming up with New Holland UMC and EUMC to present the Rocky Railway for Vacation Bible School! This year, we are going to provide an online version of VBS to help everyone stay safe! We are in need of some supplies, and of course we need kids to participate! If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Pastor Ray or Cathy Heagy

We are going to have to have all of the kids pre-registered, just register them at this link:

vbspro.events/p/98d2fe

We will provide a pickup date for packets for each of the kids – inside there will be crafts, Imagination Station and other goodies for each day for the kids to participate at home. Then we will provide the links to the videos we will pre-record! (Group Publisher – the publisher of the VBS program allows the links to be online for 30 days – after which we will have to delete them – but if you’ve ever wondered what the kids get to be a part of – we will let you know the links and you can look for yourselves!)

We will send a list of supplies that we need in the near future – our plan is to record everything in June to give time to the tech team to get everything edited and ready for July 12th! Please be in prayer for this ministry!

PEACH FESTIVAL! We are very sorry to say that the present situation makes it very unlikely that we will be able to have our Peach Festival in August. I know that is a big day for us and something that we have enjoyed for many years. We will certainly miss it!

Hopefully, we can do some type of meal/fundraiser later in the year. Stay tuned!

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020: The general conference that was to be held in May has been rescheduled for the end of August and early September in 2021. Of course, the issues remain the same as was reported in the previous newsletter. We will keep people informed of the situation

Community Outreach



THANK YOU ALL for the continued donations to Steeple to People. These go a long way toward meeting the needs of our friends and neighbors in the community.

At this point, the Honey Brook Youth Center Meals are on hold. We will announce when they start up again.

Society of St Andrews: SOSA continues their important work throughout this pandemic. Please return those donation boxes to the church office when you are able (these are the boxes that we usually collect on Palm Sunday)
Thank you!

PRAYER MEETING

We will continue to hold weekly prayer meetings thru zoom and encourage those who are able to participate. Weekly emails will be sent with all of the information you will need to be part of the group. . Please continue to send prayer requests to the church office or to Pastor Ray so that they can be added to the prayer chain. While we are separated physically, we continue to be joined together spiritually as the body of Christ!

A FEW MORE THOUGHTS!

While I say this every week, I continue to be thankful to everyone who has been able to be a part of our online worship services. Thank you all for your time and efforts. We continue to be the Body of Christ even when we do not meet face to face.

During these times of uncertainty, we might find that the things or institutions that we have trusted like a rock suddenly seem rather unsteady. We can be separated from those closest to us. We find that the amount in our bank accounts may decrease and the stock market might plummet. We see that political leaders sometimes are not willing or able to provide the solutions to difficult situations. Even well-educated and well-meaning health care professionals may be uncertain about the best way to deal with a new and dangerous illness. We may even find that some things that we thought were of the highest importance simply are no longer an option (i.e. travel, sports, many forms of entertainment).

Where to go we go to find a rock to stand upon that remains steady in these unsteady days? Where can we place our faith so that we are not disappointed? Of course, as followers of Jesus Christ, we already know those answers. Jesus says in Matthew 7:24 and 25, ²⁴“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.” When we accept His offer of salvation and ask Him into our hearts, we are able to stand firmly even when the things of this world show themselves to be slippery.

May we share that good news with our words and our actions, living out our faith in these days that appear but uncertain, but are actually in the hands of God.

F-forsaking

A-all

I -I

T-trust

H-Him