

Edgewater United Methodist Church

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Dear Church Family and Friends,

I am writing to give you an update on how we are doing worship services in September. It is hard to believe the many changes we have had the past few months! Closing for the month of August seemed like a wise precaution due to both an active member and an employee of the Girl's and Boy's Club testing positive for Covid-19. Both of those situations resolved and have not impacted anyone else. We are thankful for recovery.

Our plan for September is to have in-person worship beginning Sunday, Sept. 6. Our plan is another temporary measure in this difficult time. This plan for worship is also temporary and for September and part of October. Our 9:00 a.m. contemporary worship will be in the Sanctuary and our 11:00 a.m. traditional service will be in Hardin Hall. When the weather is cooler, we will have contemporary worship outdoors and the traditional service will return to the sanctuary. Our decision to have the traditional service in Hardin Hall was made for two reasons. We cannot adequately clean and prepare the sanctuary for worship in the short time in between services and the traditional music works better than the praise band with the acoustical challenges of Hardin Hall.

We will continue to live stream both services. We will take reservations for both services and assign seating so we can maximize the use of our available space for each service. Masks, social distancing, no singing by the congregation and other precautions will continue to be practiced.

As I shared in last Sunday's sermon from a pastor in Illinois, "Worship today is like trying to change a tire with the car still moving." There are challenges but we are following our mission to make disciples for Jesus. This time in history can be viewed as a huge obstacle for our ministry or an opportunity to be the church in a time when God is desperately needed. I see many churches postponing plans for ministry. We have had to cancel some events we have done for years. It is understandable. However, I believe that we can be effective, meet needs and share Jesus in new ways.

Every leadership team in the life of the church is meeting in August and September. We will be seeking creative ideas from the congregation on ways to go forward in the future.

Thank you for your support and patience and help during the past several months. Pray for new ministries and methods. As we pray for new growth as disciples of Christ, we are also called to continue support of ministries in need that we have supported in the past. We are enclosing an envelope for your tithes and offerings and an envelope and information on The Florida United Methodist Children's Home. We could not have made it through these past few months without your generous support.

Remember, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. We are here for you. Call with any needs you want to talk with pastor Donna about and continue sending prayer requests to the office. Our prayer team has been faithfully praying for all of you and reaching out to those in need during the pandemic. Let us know anytime prayer and support are needed.

Looking forward to seeing you in September in person and/or online. If you are unable to view services online, please let us know. We are adding ministries to provide written and audio materials to those who do not watch our services virtually.

In Service with Christ,

Pastor Donna