



THE METHODIST MOSAIC

Volume 62 Number 5 The United Methodist Church of Kent—*A Place to Grow* May 2020

Dear Friends,

We have now been in fully online worship since March 22, livestreaming our contemporary service at 9:30 and our traditional service at 10:30 each Sunday morning. Two aspects of this have been especially notable.

First is the extent to which people have been connecting with our online worship experiences. In the first two and half months of this year, when circumstances were “normal,” we were averaging around 400 persons connecting with our worship each Sunday—about 300 attending “in-person” and about 100 attending virtually through our livestreaming, videos, and podcasts. Since going fully online, we only have around 15 persons in the building each Sunday morning, comprising the small teams of worship leaders and technical people in the gym and in the sanctuary; but we have been averaging nearly 500 people connecting online. This phenomenon—that total worship attendance actually increased—has also been reported by some other large churches that have been broadcasting well-developed online services. This has occurred in spite of the fact that some of our people do not have access to online worship and have not been able to attend. What is happening is that we are picking up quite a number of online worshippers who were not previously connecting with our worship. We also may be experiencing something of the phenomenon that has occurred in periods of crisis in the past (such as 9/11)—that in such times people feel a greater need to seek God. In any case, we rejoice that in these trying circumstances we can join in worship!

The other notable aspect of our recent worship experience is the way that our staff and volunteers have stepped up to the task of shaping worship in new ways. From technical innovations to creative musical leadership, a great deal of energy and initiative has gone into creating what you see each Sunday in the worship hours. We are blessed with a very dedicated team that has rapidly moved our church forward into these new ways of worship. Some of the techniques we are developing will enable us to continue to present enhanced digital worship experiences even after we return to in-person worship!

That return to in-person worship still appears to be some time off in the future. In the meantime, we encourage you to connect with our livestreaming each Sunday at www.kentmethodist.org (services continue to be available in recorded form after Sunday morning); or if you do not have online access, you can get a DVD of each Sunday by simply contacting the church office (330-673-5879, ext. 10). Our ministries also continue to be active in many ways beyond Sunday worship; see the rest of this newsletter for details.

In Christ,
Dr. David Palmer



Our sympathies to:

- Family and friends of Joe Coia
- Sean Phillips on the death of his father

Recent Hospitalizations and Surgeries:

Don Ashton, Greg Friedman, Fred Gross,
Dave Kurtz, Gretchen Laflin

Youth Ministry News

May 2020

The April newsletter is usually one full of exciting news and summer plans for your youth group. This year because of the COVID-19 pandemic much of what needs to be shared is regarding cancellations and changes in our plans.

First, in the best interest for the safety of our students the decision has been made to cancel this year's trip to Mountain T.O.P.

Please be assured that this was not an easy decision to make and while multiple factors went into this decision, there were three that seemed key in the final decision.

First, based on information provided by Tom Mihalijevic, president and CEO of the Cleveland Clinic. The clinic is expecting COVID-19 to peak in the state of Ohio sometime between mid-May and mid-June with a gradual decline in the number of cases toward mid to late July.

Second, it is my understanding that most school districts have canceled all learning trips for the summer including Kent's trip to Germany.

Third, based on the changes made to Governor DeWine's most recent stay at home order, those returning to Ohio from out of state would have to quarantine for 14 days upon their return to Ohio.

Second, our annual Time and Talent Auction which is the primary way we fund most of our youth group activities has been rescheduled for September 27, 2020 assuming that we are free to return to normal worship by that time.

Finally, although in person graduations have been cancelled, we as a church family will be recognizing our seniors on Sunday, May 31 as part of our virtual worship services. We want to wish the members of the class of 2020 the best of luck in their future endeavors!

Hallie Fritsch, Zach Holman, Arijana Kooijman,
Katie Kulis, Erik Martin, Cade McDougal,
Mason Moldvay, Marek Seaholts, Garrett Slippery,
Caroline Stiller, Adriane Stranathan

Shalom,
Rick <>

Cloth Face Masks

Volunteers in the church, spearheaded by Dottie Emerick, have been making cloth face coverings as recommended by the CDC to slow the spread of COVID-19. These masks will be available individually packaged in a box under the portico at the sanctuary entrance. If you or members of your family are in need of masks, please help yourself.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to my church family. Thanks for the lovely visit with Elaine and Tony Alexander when they delivered the altar flowers on Sunday. Thanks to Phyllis and Margaret Nell for all they do. Thanks for Doug's visit while in the hospital. Thanks for those who sent get well wishes.

Sincerely
Margie Stahl

I wish to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and phone calls. They lifted my spirits when I needed it most. A special thank you to Dr. Palmer and Rev. Denton for their concern.

Sincerely,
Nolan Cross

VBS 2020 has been cancelled:

In light of Governor DeWine's decision to keep all K-12 schools closed for the remainder of the school year, and in the interest of the safety of our churches children and families, the decision has been made to cancel VBS for this summer. It is our hope that we can host VBS in the summer of 2021 on the same corresponding date. Watch the newsletter in early 2021 for updates regarding VBS 2021

East Ohio Camps to stay closed during the summer of 2020

On Tuesday, April 21, the East Ohio Conference summer camps office announced that all three of our Methodist camps will be suspending programs for the summer of 2020. If you have registered your camper for this summer already you are entitled to a full refund if you choose, or you can turn your payment into a charitable contribution that will help ensure the ongoing ministry of our camps during this most difficult time. Please contact the camp office at www.EOCsummercamps.org if you have further questions.

TRASH AND TREASURE SALE

Mega-sale planned for late August

We have of course cancelled the sale originally scheduled for May, and now are targeting one sale in 2020, to occur in the latter part of August, coinciding with the return of students to the Kent State campus (hopefully!). Obviously there are uncertainties around this, but we are developing a plan for a sale that will have more space, a much longer prep time, and a somewhat different structure to align with social distance requirements. This presumes that the state of Ohio will have more activities open by late August and that the Kent State campus will reopen. Carol Pozuc will be assembling a leadership team in the coming weeks, and more details will be announced in the coming months. In the meantime, keep collecting all those items that you expect to donate! The Trash and Treasure Sale provides important funding for our church's mission work.

GIVE A GERANIUM IN HONOR OR MEMORY

Honor those who serve as first responders, and in our armed forces

On Memorial Day weekend, we typically use geraniums in worship to remember our service persons (active military and veterans), and since Memorial Day is often around the time of Pentecost, the red color of the geraniums also symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit. This year we are again planning for geraniums on Sunday, May 24, but we are expanding the persons honored to also include our first responders who are on the front lines of battling the current pandemic (or any persons especially wrestling with COVID-19). We invite you to purchase geraniums in honor or memory of someone you choose, by filling out the form below. You can also place your order through our web site at www.kentmethodist.org/geraniums. The geraniums will be visible in our online worship on May 24, and we will show the names of all those in whose honor or memory the geraniums were given. Even more, the geraniums will be planted in front of our church to blossom all summer. You may have to be distant from the building, but you can help beautify the part of our grounds that passers-by see the most. The geraniums will be planted around the electronic sign in front of our building. The deadline for ordering is May 10.

Order Your Geraniums

You are invited to donate geraniums to beautify the church sanctuary for Memorial Day Sunday, May 24. We will be particularly honoring loved ones who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces, as well as those on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those names will be included in slides following the digital service on that Sunday. These flowers will then be planted here at the church to beautify our grounds for summer. Please complete the information below (**please print** to avoid any errors), and mail it to the church office or drop it into the offering plate on Sunday. All checks must be made payable to the United Methodist Church of Kent and marked "Geraniums" in the memo line. Please return money with the form by **Sunday, May 10**.



I/WE WISH TO PURCHASE _____ PLANT(S) AT \$10.00 EACH

IN MEMORY OF: _____

OR

IN HONOR OF: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE IF VETERAN: _____

OR

ROLE IN PANDEMIC RESPONSE: _____

GIVEN BY: _____



**The United Methodist
Church of Kent**
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Dr. David Palmer,
Senior Pastor

Douglas Denton,
Minister of Pastoral Care

Rick Stout,
Director of
Christian Education
and
Youth Ministries

Apply
Postage
Here

Mailing Label Here

Mailed April 29

"I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me."
Jonah 2:2

Worship Calendar

Date	Sermon	Scripture	Preacher	Special Event
May 3	"That All May Be Saved"	Jonah 3	Dr. David Palmer	Communion
May 10	Appropriately Aggrieved	Jonah 4	Dr. David Palmer	Mother's Day
New sermon series: "Cure for Anxiety"				
May 17	"From Despair to Hope"	Lamentations 3:1-12, 16-26	Dr. David Palmer	
May 24	"Faith in the Lions' Den"	Daniel 6	Dr. David Palmer	Memorial Day Sunday
May 31	"Beyond Worry"	Matthew 6:25-34; I Peter 5:6-7	Dr. David Palmer	Pentecost, Senior Recognition



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