

Food for Thought from J – Reopening Update

August 16, 2020

I was as disappointed as many of you when we were forced, back in July, to delay our original reopening for in-person worship that had been planned for July 12, but we did this for a couple of important reasons. The first of these was our own close encounter with COVID19, when two of our staff members began to exhibit some of the symptoms of the disease. So, in response to this, we needed to suspend our reopening plans to see what their test results revealed and determine if there was any risk to others beyond those two individuals. By the way neither of these individuals ever tested positive for COVID19, and they are both fully recovered from their symptoms and doing well.

The second reason for our decision to delay reopening was that our community was just beginning to experience a second wave of infections during which Georgia and Muscogee county became red zones for COVID19, with new cases rising dramatically every day. In conjunction with this, we also began hearing of regular examples of churches around town that had reopened for in-person worship having to shut back down after just a week or two because of outbreaks that occurred as a result of their resumption of in-person worship activities. Based on these local trends and the strong evidence that in-person worship activities were, in fact, causing infections and outbreaks, the leadership of our church felt it was the responsible thing, both to you and to our health care community, to not engage in activities that might make you sick or add to our community infection rates.

Since that time, however, we have continued to monitor the situation closely, and recently, the key indicators for new cases in our community have been dropping steadily. Further, more and more local churches are beginning to invite their members back to worship. Consequently, our leadership team that was charged with determining the reopening date for our church has decided to resume our process of moving toward reopening for in-person worship as soon as possible.

So, next Sunday we will be inviting our volunteers back for training and practicing the procedures we have determined as necessary and appropriate to ensure your safety if you decide to return for in-person worship. If our practice sessions go well on the 16th then it is our hope to be able to invite all of you back to worship in our building before the end of August. Of course, all of our plans remain contingent on the environment around us, and major regulatory actions and/or future spikes in infection rates and outbreaks in our church or our community can impact our actions at Wynnnton as well. So, let's all pray that nothing derails our current plans in the upcoming weeks.

One final point. I want to reiterate that returning to in-person worship is a personal decision you need to make based on your individual health. While I look forward to seeing you again, and I know we all look forward to seeing each other in person, we should only do this if it makes sense for you and your health condition. But I want to assure everyone that, as a church, we are going to do everything we can to provide a safe environment for worshipping together in this era of pandemic.

May God hasten the day when we can all be together again, worshipping God and enjoying fellowship together as the body of Christ at Wynnnton.



IN MEMORIAM

Cloie Porch
August 7, 2020

"In my Father's house are many mansions..."

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of **Malcolm Campbell** by Lynda & Bennett Massey

In memory of **Elizabeth Stephens** by Pam & Mike Woodard

In memory of **Donald Stephens** by Pam & Mike Woodard

In memory of **Louie Willett** by Lynda & Bennett Massey; Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Cloie Porch** by Linda & Seth Harp; Sarah Crawford; Katherine & Bart Smith; Susan & Tim Williams; Elizabeth Crawford

In memory of **Jonathan Young** by Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Kristi Chriss Tidwell** by Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Thomas Leone** by Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **John Horton** by Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Jennifer Meacham** by Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Mary Killough** by Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Carolyn Belk** by Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Joe Pope** by Linda & Seth Harp

In memory of **Lyle Cheves Meeks** by Linda & Seth Harp

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Vining's 60th wedding anniversary/80th birthday celebration that was scheduled at the church on 9-26-20 has been canceled.

GIFTS OF LOVE

In honor of **Bobby Porch** by Linda & Seth Harp

In honor of **Ruby Screws'** birthday by Linda & Seth Harp

In honor of **Doris Carr's** birthday by Linda & Seth Harp

In honor of **Helen Burdell's** birthday by Linda & Seth Harp

In honor of **Cindy Autry** by Linda & Seth Harp

In honor of **Rev. J Grantham's ordination** by Linda & Seth Harp

THANK YOU

We want to thank you for all your calls, texts, cards, and especially your prayers during Nancy's recent illness. We appreciate your love and concern. God bless each of you and keep you well.
Ralph and Nancy Hammond



BBB (Be a Backpack Buddy)

All 33 students at the Columbus campuses of The Methodist home (Carpenter's Way and Arrabella) returned to school with new book bags thanks to our fantastic congregation. We collected 50 backpacks and \$250 to donate to school supplies! The extra packs were left for incoming residents. Thank you all for supporting this service opportunity.

Service Opportunity at Carpenter's Way Ranch

Pastor Greg challenged us this past Sunday to serve others. Here is an opportunity for you! Carpenter's Way Ranch has two flower beds in need of continual love. I would love for Wynnton to adopt these flower beds and keep the entrance updated and beautiful year-round. The current wish is to replace the frame of the beds. The beds need complete replanting.

This is an excellent opportunity to serve, get out of the house, and social distance. Contact Pastor Kim at the church office or kimberly@wynntonumc.org if you have a desire to help with this task.



SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER

In September, we will begin using the standard Adult Sunday School curriculum. We want to make this material available to anyone who wants to follow along with the weekly lessons.

If you know you would like to participate in this by receiving the curriculum – please email Pastor Kim at kimberly@wynntonuc.org. You may also email or call the office, and we will put you on the mailing list. Look for it sometime near the end of August.

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ! 🎵

InChoring minds want to know:

Many of us who pray when we sing are wondering how we can continue to sing when health experts have advised us that Covid-19 is easily spread through singing. Colorado University was commissioned to study the production of aerosols by singers, speakers, and wind instruments. I will share the link so that you may see the results of the study. There is some good news from their study. In a nutshell, social distancing, wearing a mask, and singing for less than 30 minutes greatly reduces the chances of virus transmission.

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/4029952/preliminary-testing-report-7-13-20.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3vtjmby2kRjgGPrEiM4Tut7Pz-FmjNogLYaUaNNao0tjmeqYbCSrgJ6BY>

We are pioneers in this new age! Seek courage, which is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to be present and respond in spite of fear.

Psalm 31:24

Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord

God's Great Peace to You!

Diana B

PASTOR ON-CALL

For emergencies Aug. 14-16,
Rev. J Grantham 706-681-3258

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE

- August 16:** John 2, 1 Chronicles 10-11, Zechariah 1
August 17: John 3:1-21, 1 Chronicles 12, Zechariah 2
August 18: John 3:22-36, 1 Chronicles 13-14,
 Zechariah 3
August 19: John 4:1-26 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:7,
 Zechariah 4
August 20: John 4:27-42, 1 Chronicles 16:8-43,
 Zechariah 5
August 21: John 4:43-54, 1 Chronicles 17, Zechariah 6
August 22: John 5:1-18, 1 Chronicles 18-19, Zechariah 7

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 13 Michael White
 16 Virginia Bonner, Caroline Gatewood
 17 Joe Batastini, Ralph Hammond,
 Lynda Massey, Buddy Rogers
 18 Deb McCranie
 20 Carolyn Evans, Penny Lamb
 21 Laurence Crisp
 22 Joshua Calvert, Mallory Lotz

OUR STEWARDSHIP

8-9-20	
General Fund.....	25,226.00
Endowment Fund.....	30.00
Backpack Buddies.....	50.00
Missions.....	100.00

SUNDAY'S SERMON

Genesis: Beyond the Slippery Slope
 Genesis 4:1-16
 Rev. J Grantham

Our Known Prayer Concerns:

Sue Rogers	Lexie McRae
Bob and Judy Ottman	Jan Pittman
Jennefer Spell	Jim Dryman & family
John and Saunders Richey	Janet Stafford
Kim Evan's daughter – Lexie	Jean Adams
Brad Trim	Rob Garrett

Christian Sympathy for loss of loved one:

Family of Carolyn Belk
 Family of Louie Willett
 Family of Cloie Porch

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 16

- 9:00 a.m. The Link on Facebook
 10-10:30 a.m. Virtual Sunday School – Facebook Live
 Rev. Greg Harrison
 Rev. Kim Evans
 11:00 a.m. Live Streaming Sunday Worship
 Rev. J Grantham - Facebook Live

Wednesday, August 19

- 6:00 p.m. Midweek Check-In
 Rev. Kim Evans - Facebook Live

Thursday, August 20

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Zoom Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Zoom Call with Justin Mead

Friday, August 21

- 11:00 a.m. Friday Fellowship Friends
 Conference Call
 Phone number: 669-900-6833
 Code: 4745976652#