



In Between The Weekends

Staying Connected

May 27, 2020

**And John Wesley said if we want to follow Jesus—
if you want to love God and love your neighbor—
then live by these three simple rules:**

Do no harm

Do good

Stay in love with God

Questions for reflection:

What has this pandemic made possible?

What are we doing differently?

How has that affected our ability to live out the Gospel?

As I reflected on these questions I am aware that there has been a change in our focus. The building is no longer the focus. Sharing and living out the gospel message of “loving our neighbor” has become the focus. Our focus has also become more practical: feeding the hungry, reaching out to those who are lonely and alone, finding safe ways to gather for prayer and conversation. And the longer this pandemic has gone on, the more creative we have become. Small groups meeting outdoors, wearing masks, staying 6 feet apart. Awkward? Yes! Does it feel good to hear one another’s voice and see part of each other’s face (The part not hidden by a mask)? Yes!! I have also discovered that I am spending more time in prayer, acknowledging that it really is God who is in control and asking for wisdom. Otherwise I do what I want and what feels right to me. It can be dangerous for others when I try to take control. So I invite you to reflect on these questions and see how God is leading forward.

Check out the new video from the Bishop Wallace- Padgett at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5M0npDWooI&t=9s>

What we will miss when we return to in person worship:

- Wearing shorts and flip flops to church
- Eating lunch while we listen
- Drinking coffee/iced tea
- Talking together about what Carol was saying
- Not combing hair or putting on make up
- Wearing slippers to church
- Sending waves and hearts
- Seeing people who have moved away but are now coming to our live stream

The ability to live stream is new. Five years ago we would not have been able to stay connected in this wonderful way. And if it weren't for the pandemic, we would not have realized how important it was to be able to reach out to folks who couldn't be in worship that day for whatever reason. It is also a safe way for people to visit the church for the first time; to get a sense of who we are and how we proclaim the message of God' love. This is one way that God has opened our eyes to new possibilities of being church.

Just a reminder: Reopening will be done in phases. Movement from one phase to the next will be determined by the number of new cases of COVID 19. We will use the <https://bamatracker.com/> to keep track of our county numbers. Numbers of new cases for 5/20-1, 5/21 -2; 5/22-3;; 5/24 - 4; 5/25 -7; 5/26 -6

Still looking for Volunteers: We are looking for 25 volunteers to attend the first reopening service on June 7 at 10:00 We will use your feedback on the experience of this new normal. We will use your information to make changes before the following Sunday. Remember if there is an increase in new COVID 19 cases we will have to return to live streaming only.

To reserve your place call 256-247-3307 Remember we are limited to just 25 people and you will need to wear a mask.

This Sunday is Pentecost

Troy, Susan, Judy and Kyle and a few youth will join in leading worship

Scripture Acts 2:4-13

Sermon: Can You Hear Me Now?