



Video Update from the Pastor

Dear Church,
Please [click here](#) to watch my weekly update in video form.

Journey well, be safe, and keep washing your hands!

Blessings!

Pastor Keith

6-7-2020

Re-Forming Team Discerns Guidelines to Re-open Church House

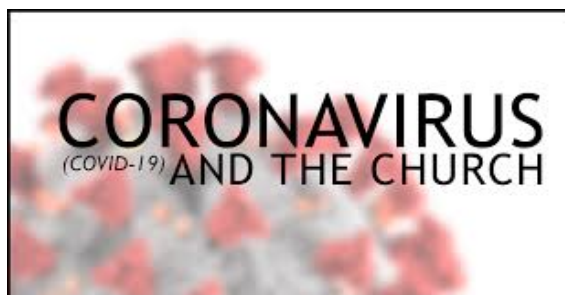
For some it's as simple as clicking the "Undo Button" of life and going back to the way things were before COVID-19. But the reality is we will never be the

same. COVID-19 has changed everything, including the Church. It has thrust the Church forward into technology, a resource we have mostly ignored. Amid this horrific pandemic the Church is waking up to a new paradigm that has been emerging for some time - the concept that the Body of Christ can connect in mission without physically gathering, the fact that the Church is not a building. As I've been saying some time, the building is closed but the Church is open.

This virus is not over. It is resurging where best practices have relaxed, and it is predicted that a vaccine will emerge slower than hoped. A friend told me, "Our congregation is opening July 1, but if there is a resurgence, we'll shut the building again." I said, "So, you're planning to be part of the resurgence?"

Discerning the return to the Church house involves the life and safety of congregants of all ages and level of risk. In-person worship is different than going to Kroger, working in an office cubical, a haircut appointment, etc. We sing, which emits unseen aerosol particles from our lungs into the air further than talking, sneezing, or coughing. We touch common things like hymnals, bibles, pews, bulletins, assistive listening devices, welcome table items, doorknobs; we use restrooms, shake hands, hug; and some even kiss during passing the peace. In-person worship is a high-risk environment for transmitting this virus.

The Re-Forming Team is utilizing resources provided by the CDC, State of Kentucky, United



Church of Christ, Kentucky Council of Churches and others. To help you know and understand the importance of guidelines and best practices for re-opening the Church house, we ask that you read these documents:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[State of Kentucky Healthy at Work Requirements](#)

[State of Kentucky Healthy at Work - Places of Worship](#)

[May 15, 2020 Pastoral Letter - Rev. David Long-Higgins - UCC Heartland Conference](#)

[Kentucky Council of Churches Approved Statement: Health at Worship](#)

[Christ Church Ft. Thomas Re-Forming Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)

We will be emailing and US mailing a survey to all Covenant Members and active attendees soon. Please look for this document in your mail and respond accordingly.

Faithfully,

Pastor Keith M. Haithcock

On behalf of the Re-Forming Team: Stephanie Dalsfoist (Chair), Jeff Draper (President of SLC), Carol Griffith, Sandy Kerlin, Regis Nesbitt, Tim Smith



Mourning and Lament

As we pass the horrifying milestone of 100,000 American deaths to the coronavirus, "We must stop. We must weep. We must mourn. We must honor. And we must lament." 33 times more deaths than on 9/11. 100K dead in 3 months - most died alone.

All this has happened, O God, but we have not forgotten your promise to be with us in trouble and deliver us. Forgive the sin of our nation for the disproportionate number of people of color among the fallen, victimized by health care inequities and the unbearable burden of systemic racial injustice. O God have mercy. Amen.

Stop Pause Breath Mourn Remember

Pray for healing of the nation.

Pastoral Letter

May 29, 2020

A Personal Pastoral Letter from Rev. Dave Long-Higgins, Transitional Conference Minister, Heartland Conference - United Church of Christ

"By tree, or gun, or knee ... "How Long?"

[Click Here](#) to read this timely and prophetic Pastoral Letter



Virtual WORSHIP Service

Sunday, June 7, 2020

First Sunday after Pentecost

Phone-in (audio only) at 10:30a on Sundays by dialing either: 1 929 205 6099 or 1 312 626 6799 and then follow the prompts. The meeting ID is: 952 499 133 The participant ID is: #

[Click here](#) to Login and to print the bulletin.



Wednesday Morning Prayer via FaceTime

The 8a Wednesday Morning Prayer has gone FaceTime! If you would like to pray together (35 minutes) with others from St. John Church contact Pastor Keith (Pastor@StJohnChurch.net or 859.466.7572) and he will get you connected.



Monday and Wednesday Evening Prayers

[Click here](#) any time after 6p on Monday or Wednesday evening to join in the prayers provided by Rev. D. Houston Hall of St. John's United Church of Christ - Newport, KY



Thursday Zoom Bible Study

June 4 and June 11

Social time and Bible study reflections

6:30p to 7:30p

A new study begins on June 18 on The Acts of the Apostles. If you would like to be part of this study contact Pastor@StJohnChurch.net to sign up.

Pastoral Care and Vital Assistance

If you need prayer, spiritual direction, or financial assistance for essential needs contact Pastor Keith:

The Rev. Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor & Teacher

Email: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net; Office: 859.261.2066, ext.202; Cell/Text: 859.466.7572

Helping Others - Local Mission and Outreach Project - Face Masks

We are joining other congregations in an effort to make masks for the immigrant communities of Greater Cincinnati. These communities have been hit hard by the pandemic but they have very few, if any, outside resources.

Here's what is needed:

Tight woven 100% cotton fabric

Woven elastic

Bias tape

Spools of thread

Floral wire

If you can sew masks at home Jan Hoeweler has recommended patterns. Contact Jan to have your donations or finished masks picked up.

We will also make masks for use at church when we open the Church house.

Jan Hoeweler - 513.314.5736 - or - jhoeweler@fuse.net



Continue to flatten the curve!

- Wash your hands
- Cover your cough/sneeze
- Stay 6 feet away from each other
- Sanitize surfaces
- Wear face mask while in public



"TOGETHER WE'RE STRONG"

*An original song, written for the
2020 National Youth Event*

Earlier this week, we debuted the newest original song and video written for NYE, "Together We're

Strong." The feedback has been overwhelming. Thanks to each of you who have given us virtual high-fives. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

This amazing video features the faces of youth and young adults who were volunteering and helping to plan **NYE2020**, as well as some of the adult volunteers and staff from Justice and Local Church Ministries. You might even see another face or two that you recognize!

"Together We're Strong" is written and performed by Tracy Howe Wispelwey. Instrumental performance and production are by Aaron Strumpel. It is mastered by David Wilton.

Some Ways to Stay Connected:

- Call a friend and share what you are experiencing.
- Have a conversation that does not include talking about Covid19.
- Write a note to someone without email and let them know you're thinking of them.
- Join the virtual Zoom Bible Study that's forming. Sign up here: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net
- FaceTime 8a Wednesday Morning Prayer. Sign up here: Pastor@StJohnChurch.net
- Share a prayer concern for the Prayer List: PrayerList@StJohnChurch.net



Continue to Support St. John Church

Your continued support is vital to the mission.

[Click here](#) to donate on-line
or mail a check payable to
St. John United Church of Christ,
520 Fairfield Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073.

Prayer of the Week

Dear Lord, when we get all tied up in knots trying to get it right, come to us again by grace, untie our knots and set us free to follow you. Amen.

-from OMG Devotionals for teens and young adults

Typical Office Hours - Changes

Due to Covid-19 typical office hours have been changed to Wednesdays from 10a to 3p. Contact information can be found in the block to the right.

Information - Pass It On

If you know of someone who does not have electronic connection, please let the office know so we may US Mail a copy of The e-Weekly to them. Thank you for your help in this effort.

Keith M. Haithcock Pastor & Teacher

Typical Covid19 Office Hours:

Wed. 10:00a to 3:00p

-Always available by
appointment-

Pastor@StJohnChurch.net

859.261.2066 ext. 202

Linda Schuster Administrative Assistant to the Pastor

Typical Covid19 Office Hours:

Wed. 10:00a to 3:00p

Office@StJohnChurch.net

859.261.2066 ext. 201

CLICK HERE FOR:

[Worship Login](#)

The e-Weekly Deadline reminder

Blurbs for The e-Weekly should be submitted to eweekly@StJohnChurch.net and are always due on Monday to be included for the following week.

Worship Bulletins

Donate to St. John online

St. John Website

Master Calendar - Online