



Mount Vernon United Methodist Church

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September 1, 2020

Dear Church Community,

Our Healthy Church Team has submitted a proposal to our District Superintendent Rev. Jeff Mickle to have in person gatherings twice a month for communion and prayer. This plan has been approved and below are all the details. It is very important that you read this letter in its entirety if you plan to join us at the church for our in person gathering.

On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 10:00am we will gather outside at the cross for a brief service of communion and prayer. During this time we will read the communion liturgy together and share prayer requests. We will still have our Sunday morning worship videos posted on our website, and will move Zoom fellowship on Sundays to only the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Our first three Sundays together will be September 20, October 4 (World Communion Sunday), and October 18.

Here are the safety protocols that we all must follow as given by the Virginia Conference laid out in the [Technical Assistance Manual](#). It is imperative that all people who attend in person abide by the following guidelines:

- Masks must be worn by every person throughout the entirety of being at the church.
- Social distance of 6 feet apart must be maintained at all times by all persons.
- There is no physical contact allowed, not even bumping elbows.
- We will be emailing out a copy of the communion liturgy each week before we gather. We are not allowed to give out a physical copy, but you are welcome to print it out and bring one with you or to view it on your phone during the service.
- You are welcome to bring your own communion elements (bread and juice) from home if you would like.
- We will not be sharing a common cup or common loaf. We will have individually prepackaged elements for each person.
- After the elements are consecrated they will be placed on another table and you will be invited to come one at a time to pick up your elements.
- If you plan to attend you must do a temperature check in the morning. If you have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher you must stay home.
- We will not be providing chairs, you are encouraged to bring your own if you would like to sit.
- We will not be opening the church, unless there is a need for a bathroom emergency.
- We will have an offering basket available if you would like to bring your offering.
- When you arrive there will be a greeter to welcome you and ask you to answer four questions from the [Health Acknowledgement Poster](#). This has taken place over the individual health acknowledgement form.
- If you have had two or more symptoms of Covid-19 (see symptoms on health acknowledgement poster) in the previous 14 days, you are asked to stay at home.
- You are invited to bring your own hand sanitizer, but we will have a touchless hand sanitizer station available.

Just because we are returning to a very limited way of gathering in person, I do not want anyone to feel a pressure or obligation to attend in person if you do not feel comfortable attending. The safety of everyone is our top priority and we will not do anything that intentionally puts someone's health at risk.

This gathering will not limit any of our online options for worship, discipleship and fellowship. If you would like communion that is consecrated at the service to be delivered to your home, please let me know and I will be happy to make arrangements for communion to be delivered to you in a safe manner.

I look forward to this time together and being able to gather in person. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Peace,

Rev. Jay Campbell