

June 3, 2020

Dear Family and Friends of Unity Presbyterian Church,

We are now into the 3rd month of our facility closure at Unity Presbyterian Church. Despite the closure we have continued our ministry and mission. In many ways we have expanded our reach and learned things we will be using as we move into the next phase of our congregational life.

Your Unity Council gathered on May 26th to prayerfully consider “measured steps” to re-open our church building in compliance with the current “Yellow Phase” restrictions in place, while remembering the benefits of following a care-filled path for the past ten weeks. We have made these decisions with love and concern for the most vulnerable members of our church family and with respect for authorities appointed to protect our neighborhoods. Please be assured and reminded that the Church is not a building - the Church is You. A building may have operating restrictions, but the Church never does!

In summary, for Allegheny County, the Stay-at-Home order has been lifted, allowing gatherings of less than 25 people, although people should continue to follow CDC and DOH guidance for the use of face masks, social distancing and cleaning.

Stay Connected – Here's How:

We will continue to offer worship services every Sunday through Facebook Live. Steps are also being taken to improve the equipment and resources to upgrade our deliverability of live streaming, video recording, and the multiple use of this media for the church in the future. Each service will be recorded and made available later that afternoon on the Unity web site, YouTube, and our Facebook page. We now have a Zoom account which we will begin to use as a way of connecting with our membership, teams, and committees. Look for an invitation to fellowship via Zoom soon!

Beginning on June 7th, we will re-open the church for **small-group worship by invitation only**. Further information about our measured steps for worship is enclosed with this letter. **(See Summary of Procedures & Protocols)**

Be sure you check our web site for a variety of Spiritual Formation videos and other content.

Submit a prayer request for our new Realm Prayer Wall and/or join the Prayer Wall virtual group to post a prayer directly to the Prayer Wall from within Realm. (Steps to do this are available on the Unity website or contact Pam Frost to learn how.)

Communicate by making phone calls to check in with church members, friends and neighbors. Find ways to share Christ's love during this time when many may be seeking connection and reassurance. You can always ask a person you have called whether they have any prayer requests for our pastoral staff or for the Prayer Wall or Prayer Paper.

Make sure you are receiving our weekly information email ***What's Up at Unity***. If you are not, and would like to be included, please contact Jess Franceschina.

Giving Generously

Many of you are continuing to faithfully give to Unity each week, for which we are grateful. Please keep in mind that you may always mail your contribution to the church or use one of the online giving options available on the Unity website and Unity's Facebook site. You should also know that we were able to secure a Small Business Loan to cover payroll for two months. Once the funds have been used and all appropriate documentation filed, the loan should be forgiven and credited as a grant. This has enabled us to bridge the gap between current contributions and current expenses. This coupled with the decrease in some costs (snow plowing, utilities, and other items) for the first quarter has us in a balanced position for the year right now. That could easily change as is typical during the summer months. We urge you to send a regular contribution and if able pay a portion of your pledge ahead to help us keep our expenses and income balanced.

The Council has also approved two capital projects using designated funds for these projects. Once the materials and equipment are secured there will be new doors at the rear of the facility and a new door at the front entrance to the sanctuary. Thanks also to some generous donors, we are proceeding with the installation of air conditioning into Fellowship Hall. We hope these projects will be completed by the time we are able to “welcome” everyone back in the future.

Council will meet again on June 23rd, to consider further changes to this protocol, as necessary. Meanwhile, let us know how we can **Be the Church** to you and your family! We have people to do errands and provide other services as needed. **Please contact Pastor Dennis Molnar at 412-389-6844 or the church office at 412-561-2431** Let's do what we can to serve one another and the people around us as a church that continues to be centered on Christ, by *Serving God, Loving All*.

Look for constant updates and announcements in the days and weeks ahead, as the situation is very fluid!

Gratefully and in the love of Christ,
The Council of Unity Presbyterian Church.