



METHODIST MESSENGER
SPECIAL EDITION OCTOBER 2020

FUMCWA
7520 W. Lapham St.
West Allis, WI 53214
414-774-5500

October 12, 2020

Dear FUMCWA Family in Christ,

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ the One who is Immanuel, God with us all the time. That is why we affirm that God is good all the time, all the time God is good.

The months of November and December are ahead of us with a promise and an invitation that we will joyfully prepare ourselves for a time of Thanksgiving and a time of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even in the most difficult circumstances of life, we have strong faith that God is with us in this journey of challenge since March. We are grateful people, thankful people, most zestful and radiant people.

The following is a provisional plan for the months of November and December with the understanding that the current reality, regarding the statewide COVID-19, will hopefully change for better.

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
(I Thessalonians 5:18)

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Online Worship Planning Team

CHURCH REOPENING PLANS FOR NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2020

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Worship Services will resume in the sanctuary beginning November 1, 2020, “All Saints Sunday”, at 10:00 am each Sunday with one 35-minute service. The worship service will be live streamed on Sunday morning on YouTube at 10:00 am. A recorded version of the service will remain on YouTube for viewing and a copy of the service will be posted on the church Facebook page after the live streaming is complete. A link to the YouTube recording will be posted on the church website. There will be **NO** pre-recorded online worship services beginning November 1, 2020. Up to 30 worshippers (based on distancing guidelines per CDC) plus 10 volunteers/ushers/tech team/worship team will be the maximum number of participants in the sanctuary. The reservation signup system will continue for each Sunday in November and December. All CDC guidelines will be strictly followed with precautions and post-service cleaning and sanitizing of the sanctuary. Please see the enclosed Talking Points for more information.

For the Advent season this year, we will follow a special resource for all age groups entitled, “*Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*” by Adam Hamilton. During the months of November and December we will learn together as a church about the rich meanings

of the names of Christ and how the names will bring changes in our lives and in the life of the church this Christmas. We plan to follow Adam Hamilton's resource for preaching, teaching, Sunday School, and other spiritually nourishing services. The Names that we will focus on are: Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the world, and Word made Flesh. Pastor Sam and RoseAnn Ting will teach an eight-week special Advent class based on Hamilton's book. The class will be held on Tuesday at 11:00 am and 7:30 pm. The eight-week book study will begin on November 10, 2020 via zoom. If interested, please call the church office with your name and email and indicate which session you will attend, either 11:00 am or 7:30 pm. Please purchase a copy of the book for the study - *"Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas"* by Adam Hamilton. The book is available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other booksellers.

December 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm: 2020 Christmas Eve Service which will be **live streamed** to YouTube. A copy of the service will be posted later on the church Facebook.

ADDITIONAL SPECIAL SERVICES:

Midweek 30-minute special services of celebration are being planned for the following Wednesdays:

November 25, 2020 at 6:00 pm: Thanksgiving Eve Service which will be **live streamed** to YouTube. A copy of the service will be posted later on the church Facebook.

December 2, 2020 at 6:00 pm: The 97th Year Celebration of the Church Building Dedication Service (December 2, 1923 – December 2, 2020). This will be a **webinar**. The current building with a seating capacity of 300 was dedicated on December 2, 1923, by Bishop Charles Mitchell, with a congregation of 150.

December 9, 2020 at 6:00 pm: Celebration of Church Volunteers' Service. This will be a **webinar**.

December 16, 2020 at 6:00 pm: Christmas Carol and Hymn Singing Service which will be **live streamed** to YouTube. A copy of the service will be posted later on the church Facebook.

December 23, 2020 at 6:00 pm: Celebration of 102 years of Sunday School (December 23, 1918 – December 23, 2020). This will be a **webinar**. On December 23, 1918, the first Sunday School was officially organized in the new church with Abner M. Johnson as its first superintendent.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 31, 2020, from 4:00-7:00 pm in the church parking lot.

Fall Harvest Scavenger Hunt: This is a Youth Group event that will be held in early November. Invite your friends. Watch for details!

Youth Forum: In November, the youth of our community will be invited to gather to learn about and discuss spirituality and faith and anti-racism and social justice.

Brunch in Bethlehem: December 6, 2020, from 11:00 am–12:00 pm. This will be a pre-recorded **webinar** with music, a play, and Scripture readings by the youth of FUMCWA. Watch for more information.