

First United Methodist Church of Saline

Rev. Tom Zimmerman
January 21, 2021

"I always put the LORD in front of me; I will not stumble because he is on my right side." Psalm 16:8

Dear Friends:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Last week, I shared that I would be praying for a word for the year upon which God wanted me to focus. So I wonder if God was trying to tell me something when four days in a row the word "peace" was the theme verse for my daily devotions. Psalm 16 led the way in my reading. You see, it reminds us that God is always before us, in all things. And God is also right in the thick of it with us. Because of that, we will not be shaken. We can have peace—a peace that the world cannot give. How comforting is God's Word!

Last night, our church reopen task force made the decision to come back to in-person worship on February 7. With the advice of our health care workers, guidelines from the Bishop and the state, we feel confident that we can do this. We are at peace with our decision.

Once again, in order to prepare for inside worship, we have mapped out the sanctuary and socially marked off the pews. Our intention, however, is to begin conservatively with a limit of 50 parishioners, plus staff. Face coverings over both nose and mouth are required inside the building, according to our church policy attached. We ask that you read this updated document before attending any in-person gathering at the church. **Please remember that registration for worship is mandatory.**

At this moment, our children's ministry will remain virtual, while our youth will be gathering inside again.

Please understand that this is our plan, until it isn't. If coronavirus numbers increase and we need to take a step back, we will. Livestream will continue to be available at 9:00 am.

Let me write once again how appreciative I am for your support and input through the many changes we continue to see.

Blessings,

Pastor Tom

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES + PRAYER LIST

Birthdays ~ Kendra Aungst, 1/24; Sarah Stockton, Colton Cundiff, Jill Trokey, 1/25; Mary Ellen Pickens, Erica Webb, Ed Rodenhouse, Karen Medley, Paul W. Chandler, Anita Drake, Lindy Fekety, 1/26; Don Telfer, Patricia Aungst, 1/27; Lauren Telfer, Gloria Tyler, Scott Kise, Miriam Weaver, Martin Makolin, Tim Cockerham, 1/28.

Anniversaries ~ Carlos & B Melendez, 1/28.

Prayer Concerns—Dorothy Bredernitz, Larry, Joann, Neal, Gene Bull, Patterson family, Greg Folta & his mother, Kim Durham, Darlene Wetzel, Lil Vaughan, Mike Ulrich, Will Minnette, a friend with a MERSA infection, our nation and government leaders, first responders, frontline workers, those who are ill and all impacted negatively by the pandemic, safety for students & teachers returning to school.

Praises—Gene Bull is recovering from COVID-19 pneumonia.

Continue to Pray for—Jim Ducca, Julie O'Keefe, Gayle Rogers, Bill Doren, Steven Baker, Mike Walker, Sally Hanifi, Jack Ceo, LeeAnn Redies, Rob Fowler, Kent Aurand, Abby Cudney, Doris Sekerka, Macy family, Blaine Zimmerman.

Military—Erik Maddock, J.T. St. Dennis.

Pray for the homebound and those in special living facilities—Betty Charles, Naomi Woods, Betty Sellers, Florence Belt, Norma Jean West, Lysle Smith, Nancy Jedele, Vera Bennett, Doris Schmerberg, Virginia Sherman, Dorothy Bredernitz.

Announcements

Important Tax Information

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2020 income tax return until you have received written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Statements were mailed on January 19, 2021.

Worship & In-Person Gatherings Update

As Pastor Tom indicated in his message, FUMC Saline will open for in-person worship on Sunday, February 7 for a maximum number of 50 people. Those wishing to attend in-person worship must register via our website or by calling the church office. Registration will begin on Monday, February 1 for the February 7 service. Mask wearing, social distancing and hand sanitizing are required of all participants as in previous in-person gatherings, and we ask that you not come to the church if you are feeling ill. Sunday worship services will also continue via live stream, and recorded services are posted on our website to watch anytime.

We opened this week to ministry focused small groups of 10 or less participants. Please call the church office if you lead a small ministry focused group and wish to meet in person at the church so we can schedule you on the calendar.

We are also now open to host funerals of 25 persons or less, and will open for youth activities Sunday, January 31. The church will continue to be closed to children's ministry and to outside groups other than funerals until further notice.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS—To limit both our staff's and visitors' exposure, we ask that you continue to call ahead to make an appointment if you need to come to the church, Monday–Thursday, 9:00 am–12:00 pm.

Pastor Tom's Bible Study

Pastor Tom's Wednesday morning bible study is open to anyone, anytime. We meet on Wednesdays via Zoom, 9:30–10:30 am. Learn from Jesus, the greatest story teller ever, and His wonderful lessons on life and the kingdom of God from the Book of John. Contact the church office for the Zoom email invitation if you would like to join, 734-429-4730.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

One adult bible study is offered via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am, The Gospel of Mark. If you are interested in joining The Gospel of Mark study, please contact the church office for Zoom information.

Congregational Care

Hello All, I am now working full time at EHM, Senior Solutions. However, I still am on staff at SFUMC with limited hours. I will still oversee support groups, Stephen Ministry, and visiting. Please continue to contact me as you would have in the past with any prayer concerns or troubles. Blessings, Jeanette Brenner

Lent

Lent begins on Sunday, February 21. Watch our weekly updates and February newsletter for information about our Lent book study and other offerings for the Lent season.

