

Ashland Place United Methodist Church E-News - January 6, 2022

A Word from the Covid Task Force:

One of our Task Force members recently asked, "Do you ever get the feeling you're in the movie Ground Hog Day"? Like others on the committee, I felt like I had lived this week before, awakened to this tune before... but I guess life is kind of like that sometimes... A short time ago we faced non-stop rainy days, then we experienced cold fronts followed by warm spells and storms. With each change in the weather, we adapted — we wore raincoats and carried umbrellas; then we switched to jackets and coats; then to short sleeves and then picked up umbrellas on the way out again. We are flexible and we are resilient and more than that, we are a faithful and hopeful people who can see beyond these inconveniences.

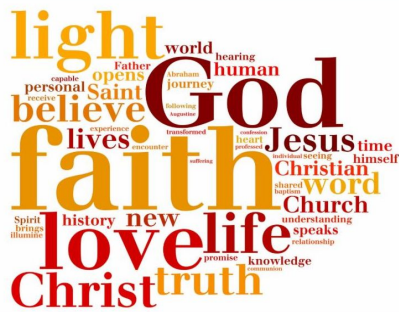
Our task force continues to monitor the Covid-19 situation in this corner of the world and considers plans to keep our church community as safe as possible. The task force met this week to discuss options and ways to adapt in order to maintain in-person worship and meetings.

With the increasing number of Covid-19 infections in our county, we feel it is time to flex a little in how we meet over the *next couple of weeks**.

- Masks will be required for our in-person Worship Services, Sunday School and Meetings. This includes all persons over the age of four.
- Social Distancing will be observed during our worship services. Please do your best to distance yourselves in classes and meetings.
- We will not serve communion for the next couple of weeks to reduce contact and observe social distancing measures.
- We are asking that everyone follow the CDC recommendations of isolation for when we test positive or find ourselves exposed to someone with Covid-19. Given the possible scenarios by age and vaccination status, please refer to the CDC or the Mobile County Health Department website for guidance.

The Task Force will reconvene in two weeks* to assess our situation and review our policies. Because things are changing so quickly, we're assessing more often -- so these policies are not "forever" just for now!

I know we are all tired of reading and hearing about Covid-19 and the responses; but I encourage everyone to continue to pray for those who are dealing with this sickness and for those who are on the front lines of care. And let part of our prayer be for one another as we do all we can do to protect and care for loved ones in our faith community. There are seasons when offering love and care is a lot like adapting to inconveniences for the benefit of others.



Happy Epiphany! January 6th

& Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 9th

January 6th is Epiphany when we celebrate God being made known to us and all the world through Jesus Christ. It's also the day we remember the visit of the wise men -- the 12th day of Christmas!

Next Sunday is called "Baptism of the Lord Sunday" and we will hear about how we are "Marked as Christ's Own" through our baptism. The sacrament of baptism is our entry into the community of faith and calls us into the ministry of the church. That's what we'll be talking about in **Confirmation** this week. Scripture references include: Numbers 19:18-19 (Purifying by sprinkling water); Matthew 2:2, 11 (visit of wise men); Luke 3:21-23 (baptism of Jesus); Luke 4:18-21 (ministry of Jesus); John 8:12 (Jesus is the light of the world) and I John 1:5 (God is the light and in God there is no darkness). Our primary scripture lesson in worship will be Isaiah 43:1-7, if you'd like to read it ahead of time.

Age Level Ministries

Children's Chapel



Children (4P to 4th grade) who attend worship are released to The Landing for Children's Chapel during 9:00 and 11:00 worship.

This week our Scripture lesson will be about the Baptism of Jesus, from Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. Our Message will be "Jesus Loves Me" and we'll be singing Jesus Loves Me and Jesus Loves the Little Children. As

always, we will collect an offering and participate in Prayers of the People where the leader says petitions and "Lord in your mercy" and children respond: "Hear our prayer".

Youth Group

Hoping that attending Church and Youth is one of your New Year's Resolutions and wondering about your favorite "portmanteau"! My new favorite is "anticipointment"! It's the combination of anticipation and disappointment and is the feeling of letdown one experiences when hype gives way to reality. We thought if we could just get to 2022 we'd be done with all this crazy covid nonsense, but here it is... and we're still dealing with it! We will meet on Sunday afternoon from 5 to 6:30 for Youth Group, and masks are encouraged in the building for right now. We'll be having pizza for supper, so text Lee Ann if you want to eat! 251.272.0721

KEEP
CALM
AND GO TO
YOUTH
GROUP

As part of both services, we will have a time for Leadership Installation on Sunday, January 23rd. Those who are leaders and those who are supportive members are encouraged to attend to participate in this special blessing.

Around the Congregation...

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Please hold these members in your prayers: John Allen, Sterling Boykin, Jean Brown, Sharon Coggin, Bob Colclough, Linda Lee Counts, Jane Ford, Ruffin Graham, Ervetta Haas, Freddie Jones, Haley Maxime, Lexi Mayhall, Michael Pierce, Sr, Tom Root, Burton Roton, Nancy Scott, Nyla Smith, Law Stuart, Peggy Tanner, Kathryn Willingham, and all those dealing with Covid infections* as patients, caregivers and medical personnel. (*New this week)

Please let us know if someone you know needs to be added/removed on the Circle of Concern by completing a prayer card in the pew back, or contacting the Church Office.

CHRISTIAN LOVE and SYMPATHY to family and friends of Jo Nusbaum, who died peacefully at home on Monday, January 3. Jo is the mother of Karen Gochey and Kathie Stabler, and sister of Pat Pope in our church. She was a beloved long-time member of Ashland Place.

CHRISTIAN LOVE and SYMPATHY to former member Jackie Newcomb due to the death of her daughter, Margaret May Newcomb Carr who died on Sunday, December 26 in Bay Springs, Mississippi.

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