



## 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.



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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