

Life at Cokesbury

September 24, 2020

Worship Opportunities

We continue to worship in two ways as a congregation. Both have been enormously rewarding in their own right, but they are different and distinct.

At 9a.m. we worship under the big tent in the church parking lot. Being outdoors, staying socially distant, wearing masks, and restricting bathroom usage are among the ways that we are ensuring as much safety as possible. The 9 a.m. service has proven to be exciting because it's so laid back and interactive—we actually engage conversation! It's also an opportunity for us to invite friends and invite the neighborhood to join us (still working with a “bring your own chair” policy). We have even been blessed to have Lucia Gonzalez to join us and read our Scripture texts in Spanish.

At 10:45 we post our livestream service on Facebook Live. By now many of our congregation have become Facebook experts. This service is, naturally, not as interactive, but we have great music organized by Marty Gregory. We are also beginning to use different members of the congregation to read Scripture and say prayers. The broadcast and production of this service would not be possible without the generosity of many in our congregation who recognized the need for the new equipment. Thank you!

We will continue with this schedule for just a brief time longer, as the cooler weather may necessitate having the tent service later than 9a.m. It's just been a great thing to worship together in ways that hopefully will help us reach more people with Good News of who Jesus is here at Cokesbury

New Monday Lunch Discussion Group

Beginning this coming Monday, September 28, from noon-1p.m., we will start a discussion group via ZOOM. The topics will be different each week, based on the sermon from Sunday. This will be a way for anyone who wants to go deeper into the text, ask questions, seek clarification, explore possibilities, and even challenge one another. If you want to participate, all you have to do is email Pastor Jonathan (jonathan@cokeburyumc.net) and he will send you an invitation to the ZOOM meeting on Monday morning.

New Evening Discussion Group

Beginning this coming Wednesday, September 30, from 7p.m.-8p.m., we will start a discussion group via ZOOM. Once this group gathers, we will discuss the sorts of topics the group is most interested in. In the summer, we held discussions about two of the epistles from the New Testament. For this discussion group, however, it seems like an appropriate season to try and support one another by growing together more deeply in our faith because we will share the questions, joys, concerns, and issues that are real to us. Pastor Jonathan will facilitate the group, partly by using topics requested by participants as the agenda. Because the topics may change each week, you can join in at any time. If you want to participate, all you have to do is email Pastor Jonathan (jonathan@cokeburyumc.net) and he will send you an invitation to the ZOOM meeting in the afternoon on Wednesday.

We're Giving Out Fresh Produce on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Perhaps you are uneasy about spending too much time in the grocery store picking through the produce section. We have a solution for you: drive-thru at the church between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and get a bag of produce already packed. Sure, you don't get to pick your own, but you do get to enjoy the mystery of what's in the bag (and who doesn't love a great mystery!?). If you are able, you may donate what you feel the bag of produce is worth to you. Donations received for actual produce and towards our food ministries in general ensure that we can continue to offer fresh produce to those who need it.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this ministry, email the church office (jgillis@cokeburyumc.net) so that we can get you on the schedule. If you are interested in donating either produce or money, your generosity will be deeply appreciated and put to good use.

Building Usage

Because the Western NC Conference has permitted us to have somewhat larger gatherings than the last several months, we will begin hosting some of our small groups at the church building. However, we have a number of restrictions and mandates related to limiting the possible exposure to Covid-19, in addition to the presence of some vital ministries already in place.

If your group desires to have in-person meetings, please contact Bruce Fowler, Chair of Trustees, at 704 578-4466 to check on available dates and times. We request that you please give Bruce at least a week to help accommodate your request.

Hot Dogs on Saturdays

Every Saturday from 11a.m.-1p.m., we have a wonderful time handing out bagged hot dog lunches to anyone who comes through. This is a vital ministry because the schools provide meals for students, but not for whole families. This is a way for us to let our neighborhood know that we care. It would be great if you came by to get a lunch or just to stand on the sidewalk to wave at folks as they drive through.

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers

Serét Dinkler

Pam Betts

Dan Dumas (thanksgiving for good reports)

Kay Dumas

Doug Hargett

Deanna Long

Randy Pitcock & his sister, Cindy

Katie Postel (grandniece of Mary Freeman, needs kidney)

October Birthdays

Teri Pitcock - 2nd

Rebecca King - 8th

Sam Lake - 8th

Flo Sowell - 13th