

Life at Cokesbury

October 8, 2020

A Word from the Pastor

As we move into Phase 3 of gathering guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic, we have the opportunity to discover what will work best for our congregation. While it's an opportunity for us to simplify a lot of what we do, it's also a bit of a challenge because schedules and protocols change frequently. I've been fortunate to be your pastor during this time because everyone has been incredibly gracious and flexible as we've adapted and readapted. I'm thankful for the spirit of this congregation!

That said, even once we get back in the sanctuary in a couple of weeks, things will still be different because all of our normal gatherings are so limited and because we still can't hug each other or shake hands or share a common loaf of bread. That's hard for a group of people who thrive on being connected in these traditional ways. I guess we are all having to adapt and learn new ways to be the Body of Christ in our gathering and for our community (that needs us to be life-giving place for it).

Since March, we've begun finding ways to provide some food to anyone that needs or wants it. Sometimes we've done this with less planning that we might normally have the patience for, but that's been a blessing because we've learned how to try new things without over-thinking them. We are even discovering how important we can be for the Idlewild neighborhood, but we've had to be flexible and open-minded to discover how we can be the Body of Christ that this neighborhood needs and that Christ himself is leading us to be. We are learning and changing, but God is not done with us—we have some more perfecting yet to go!

When you read the Bible, you might notice that God's people always seem to be on the move. Faith always seems to be a journey, an adventure. Cokesbury in 2020 is an adventure where Jesus continues to ask us to adapt to new circumstances so that those who feel that they have no place or people can find that they are part of the family of God at this place. You can do that. I believe in who Christ is among us at Cokesbury. I believe that the journey is worth the courage it takes to give up what we've always expected, the courage it takes to be the adapt, and the courage it takes to follow Jesus.

Grace,
Jonathan

Pastor Appreciation

The Prime Timers have made a donation to the Food Ministry in honor of Pastor Jonathan in celebration of Pastor Appreciation Sunday, October 11.

Sunday Worship Times

As the new phases for gathering in-person have been changing and as the weather has started cooling, our worship settings and times are changing, too. Because we've already made announcements about worship times for this coming Sunday, October 11, we will stick with what we announced, but there will also be some changes coming up in our worship schedule afterwards. Beginning on October 18 and moving forward, we will be able to worship in person in the

sanctuary with up to 100 people.

October 11: Facebook Live begins at 9 a.m.

Tent Worship begins at 10:45 a.m. (bring your chair, mask, and social distance)

October 18-: In-person worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 a.m.

(this service will also be live streamed on Facebook Live, more details to follow)

Tuesday and Thursday Produce

Remember that we provide fresh produce every Tuesday and Thursday from 4p.m.-6p.m. We accept donations but that is not a requirement for someone to receive produce. Everyone, regardless of financial status, is welcomed to come pick up “the good stuff.” If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Joan Gillis (jgillis@cokeburyumc.net).

Saturday Hot Dogs

Every Saturday from 11a.m.-1p.m. we hand out bagged hotdog lunches. Our new hot dog cart gets lots of use. Last week we gave out 480 hotdog bags. Donations are accepted but not required, so anyone can come through. This is not just for those “in need,” unless that means someone who needs lunch.

October 31 Blood Drive

Get your Halloween costumes ready! On Saturday, October 31, we will host a blood drive here at the church from 9a.m.-3p.m. If you are interested in donating blood, contact the church office (jgillis@cokeburyumc.net) to make an appointment.

Charge Conference October 19

At 7p.m. on Monday, October 19, we will have our annual Charge Conference business meeting. Because the meeting will be held via ZOOM, we are asking that you contact the church office (jgillis@cokeburyumc.net) so that we can send you an invitation to join the video conference.

All Saints' Service Planning

As we get closer to All Saints' Sunday, November 1, we are making plans for how we will remember those in our church family who have died since last year. Because so many of our congregation are worshiping online with us, we would like to remember our saints in some special ways. We especially would like have pictures, audio or video recordings, or special items related to those church members who have joined the church triumphant. Let the church office (jgillis@cokeburyumc.net) know if you have any of those. This service will be especially important this year since even our services of resurrection have been altered due to the pandemic.

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers

Dan & Kay Dumas

Deanna Long

Diane Bolster (going to Royal Park Rehab. today)

Randy Pitcock

Karen Glazer

Katie Postel (grandniece of Mary Freeman, needs kidney)

Owen Henley (tested positive for Covid-19. Still at Appalachian State in quarantine)

Upcoming national, state, and local elections

