



*Being  
United in Christ  
Teaching the Word  
Loving and Caring  
Empowering and Enabling Disciples  
Responding to Needs*

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**TABERNACLE TIMES**

**\*\*\*\* OCTOBER 2020 \*\*\*\***



## *Musings from Mike*

### ‘The Room Where it Happens ...’

When the shut downs started I saw people confidently predicting that we in church world would discover that rooms and buildings did not mean that much.

Six months later I think a different thought is dawning on people. The places where we live our common life are important and in a hectic and distracted world having places that help guide our actions and focus our attention are more important than ever before. Having places that we share the experiences of life and faith with each other are important and deeply meaningful, especially in joyful and difficult times of life.

I want to thank everyone who was present in the front yard of the parsonage as we began the journey back to in person worship with each other. We observed social distancing, wore masks, maintained our distance, and had a heck of a good time with each other. I don't think any of us will look at that yard the same way again...it became holy ground.

Being back in the sanctuary is another step in this journey where we have the chance to care for and about each other.

Above all, it is a chance to say to each other and God, “Here I Am Lord” and that we are ready for where the next steps of this journey will take us.

I look forward to being with you who are able to be there. To those who need or choose to remain home: We love you! And we will see you on the internet...

Shalom,

*Pastor Mike*



## WORSHIP & PREACHING FOR OCTOBER 2020

October sees us back in the room together to share worship, friendship, and faith as we seek the guidance and assurance of God for our journey together. Pastor Mike will finish the Jonah series the first Sunday and share communion that day. After preaching on October 11<sup>th</sup> Mike will be taking two Sundays off for vacation and a trip to Red Bird Mission. Dawn Kruimer and Scott Lowe will be sharing the message those two Sundays.

- October 4<sup>th</sup> : Communion  
Jonah (select verses) / Matthew 7:21-23  
“Who Would Tell That Story?”
- October 11<sup>th</sup>: Acts 1:6-9 “What’s Next?”
- October 18<sup>th</sup>: Scott Lowe will bring the message
- October 25<sup>th</sup>: Dawn Kruimer will bring the message



Planning and conversations are happening now to plan for ministries of Christian Education/Formation this fall and beyond. We expect Sunday School classes later in October as in person worship resumes. In the absence of Coffee Hour we will use Fellowship Hall for Sunday School so the students and leaders will be able to socially distance.

If you would like to be part of helping to plan and carry out our ministry of faith building for the next generation, please be in touch with Pastor Mike at the church office.

## WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES?

Friends, just a reminder of the guidelines we are practicing with and for each other as we return to indoor worship:

### BUTLER UMC RE-OPENING PLAN 06/09/20

- I. PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE US:
  - A. Scripture Teaching from Jesus – Love God and Love our Neighbors as Ourselves.
  - B. John Wesley's Rules for Methodist Societies –
    1. Do No Harm
    2. Do all the Good You Can
    3. Stay in Love With and Grounded in God.
  - C. Guidelines from the CDC and State of NJ.
  - D. We want to do all that we can to protect all who come under our roof while at the same time fulfilling our God-given mission of 'feeding people – body & soul'.
- II. BEGINNING STEPS:
  - A. Appropriate Self-Care and Monitoring
    1. Worship will continue to be available online, whether live or taped and posted on Sunday.
    2. If you are in a vulnerable age group (60+) and/or have a pre-existing condition that makes you vulnerable to the virus you are encouraged to stay home.
    3. If you have been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 you need to practice self-quarantine for at least two weeks and not attend worship or church events.
    4. If you have any symptoms or feel ill, please stay home.
    5. Should you become sick with COVID-19 after attending a worship service or church in person event you need to notify the Church Office immediately.

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## GUIDELINES (continued)

### B. If you come into the Church Building you will need to:

1. Wear a mask
2. Sanitize and wash hands.
3. Practice social distancing (6 feet minimum)
4. Have your temperature checked.
5. Register your attendance and contact info, to enable contact tracing should it be needed.
6. All groups that use the building are responsible to wipe down and disinfect high touch areas. (doors, door knobs, switches, rest rooms).

### C. Worship (all the above plus)

1. There will be no congregational singing and the Choir will not meet or sing immediately.
2. Rows of pews will be closed so people may be at least 6 feet from the rows around them.
3. People from the same household may sit together, others should keep at least 6 feet distance.
4. Passing Offering Plates, Friendship Pads, Communion with common loaf and cup will be discontinued.
5. Interior and Exterior doors will be propped open wherever practical to minimize touching of them.
6. Hymnals, Bibles, pencils, and response cards will be removed from the pews. People are encouraged and welcome to bring their own Bible to follow along with Scripture readings.
7. Immediately following worship – designated teams will clean door knobs and handles, pews, and rest rooms.
8. For the immediate future, Coffee Hour and events around tables in Fellowship Hall are discontinued.

## **LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY**

Loaves and Fishes is the ministry that was able to continue in the church building, even during the shutdown because of the careful planning and work of Debby Smeilus and a large number of fellow ministry helpers. During the period of the shut down and over the summer we have been serving about double the number of households (50-70 = 200-250 or more people) that we normally would.

During this time we have experienced outstanding support from many sources:

- From all of you through your gifts and efforts for Loaves & Fishes
- The Community Food Bank in Hillside <https://cfbnj.org/> and the Interfaith Food Pantry <http://mcifp.org/> in Morris Plains supplied small mountains of fresh and non-perishable food.

Thank you all so much and please continue to be in prayer for the ministry of Loaves and Fishes which allows us to directly feed people's bodies.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE at Loaves and Fishes in a hands on way...

- You can help with packing bags and organizing food to be distributed on a Thursday or Friday evening before the weekend distribution.
- You can help out with the distributions on Saturday morning (8:30am to 1pm) or Monday evening (6:45 – 9:00pm). We need small numbers of people to help with organizing and distributing food, and also greeting our guests and helping them with what they need. (We especially need at least one person each time who is comfortable in English and Spanish languages.)
- Please contact Debby Smeilus [pdsmeilus@optonline.net](mailto:pdsmeilus@optonline.net) or the church office [umcbutler@gmail.com](mailto:umcbutler@gmail.com) and we will connect you with a date and task.

Loaves and Fishes will be distributing on the following dates:

- October 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>
- November 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>



## Loaves & Fishes

With the increase in need over the last several months, the supply closet could use replenishing of several different items. Especially needed are pasta and sauce, canned and dried beans, macaroni and cheese, soup, canned vegetables, and peanut butter and jelly. Always needed are personal care items ... toothpaste, deodorant, soap, hand soap, etc., but any items are appreciated and can be used to help our families supplement their monthly food budget. Donations can be put in the plastic bin outside the church office in the lower parking lot, or in the cabinet at the entrance to the Narthex.

### **Macaroni & Cheese**

Canned Tuna

Canned Fruit

### **Mixed vegetables**

### **Canned beans (Red, black & cannelloni)**

Canned tomatoes

### **Hot or Cold Cereals**

Pancake Mixes/Syrup

Dried or Powdered Milk

### **Peanut Butter**

Cooking Oil (Vegetable, olive, canola)

Pasta / Pasta Sauce

Boxed Potatoes

Stuffing

Rice Side Dishes

Bags of White Rice

### **Soup**

### **Dried Beans – Red or Black**

### **Jelly – Strawberry & Grape**

Paper towels

Toilet paper

Tissues / Napkins

### **Toothpaste/Toothbrush**

### **Soap / Shampoo**

Dish / Laundry Detergent

Cleaning Wipes

Thank you for your generosity,

*Debby Smeilus*, Coordinator



## CALLING ALL YOUTH!

... 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up: Sunday School is officially resuming this week after the sermon on Sunday mornings. We will have a shortened class for now (30 minutes) and will be operating in a bible study format. Wear your masks and prepare to spread out and speak up.

... Sunday School for younger children is in the works... stay tuned...



November 1<sup>st</sup> – Daylight Savings Time ends @ 2:00am

Turn your clocks *BACK* one hour

November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Day

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Election Day

November 10<sup>th</sup> – Ad Council Meeting  
(via Zoom at 7:00 pm)

November 26<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day

November 29<sup>th</sup> – First Day of Advent



All Saints Day will be observed on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> during worship. As United Methodists, on All Saints Day we remember the children of God who have passed on. In our congregation we ring bells of remembrance, and call the saints by name as we celebrate the impact their lives have made on our lives. If you would like to include the name of a friend or loved one in this year's reading of the Saints, please print their name legibly below and check the box next to their name if they died in the past year. All lists should be returned to the church office before October 26th.

Name

Check if Died in Past Year

- |          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Remembered By: \_\_\_\_\_



# OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Matthew / San Mateo 21:28-32	Luke / San Lucas 12:35-40	Luke / San Lucas 12:41-48
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Exodus/Éxodo 33:12-23 Philippians/Filipenses 2:1-13 Psalm/Salmos 99 Matthew/San Mateo 21:28-32	Exodus / Éxodo 3:7-22	Jeremiah / Jeremías 32:16-24	Isaiah / Isaías 40:18-31	Romans / Romanos 4:13-25	Acts / Hechos 12:1-17	Hebrews / Hebreos 1:1-14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Numbers/Números 27:12-23 Philippians/Filipenses 3:12-21 Psalm/Salmos 81:1-10 Matthew/San Mateo 21:33-43	John / San Juan 13:1-11	Romans / Romanos 15:1-13	2 Corinthians / 2 Corintios 6:1-10	2 Corinthians / 2 Corintios 4:1-13	2 Corinthians / 2 Corintios 7:1-13	Matthew / San Mateo 10:24-39
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Deuteronomy/Deuteronomio 34:1-12 Philippians/Filipenses 4:1-9 Psalm/Salmos 135:1-14 Matthew/San Mateo 22:1-14	Luke / San Lucas 7:36-50	Mark / Marcos 5:1-20	Matthew / Mateo 9:1-12	Acts / Hechos 9:10-18	Luke / Lucas 6:27-36	John / Juan 9:1-12, 35-41
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Ruth/Rut 1:1-19a 1 Thessalonians/ 1 Tesalonicenses 1:1-10 Psalm/Salmos 146 Matthew/San Mateo 22:15-22	Romans / Romanos 8:1-17	2 Timothy / 2 Timoteo 1:1-14	1 Peter / 1 Pedro 2:21-25	Romans / Romanos 14:1-21	Matthew / Mateo 6:25-34	Matthew / Mateo 19:16-29