

The Rules



... An expert in the law tested him with this question: “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:35-40

It is therefore expected of all who continue therein (in Methodist Societies) that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced ... The General Rules of Methodist Societies

As we have been thinking about, praying about, and discussing when and under what conditions we will return to in-person worship and “reopen” the church, I have kept these two guiding statements at the forefront. When we return to using our church building like we once did, we will do so in ways that show a love for our neighbors and that “do no harm.” So, the question is, as we return to in-person worship and to using our church building, how can we do so in a way that loves our neighbors and that does no harm? Below is the best plan we have developed to follow these guiding principles.

Beginning this coming Sunday, June 7, **we will once again hold both our 8:00 & 10:00 services** in the Sanctuary

Services will continue to be available online, but will not be livestreamed. Services will be uploaded Sunday afternoons on Facebook and YouTube.

There will be 2 rows of pews closed between every open pew. **Congregants will be asked to sit only with members of your household.** You are asked to practice social distancing.

Please do not attend if you are not feeling well or have reason to believe you might have the COVID 19 virus.

The wearing of masks will be required. Remember, wearing masks protects others and is a way to love our neighbors.

Bulletins will be available for you to pick up, they will not be handed out. Also, a recycle bin will be at the exit for you to put your bulletin in. This will help those cleaning up to handle fewer items.

Offering plates will not be passed during the service. Offerings can be left in the plates on the way in or out of the sanctuary.

Hand sanitizer will be placed in multiple locations throughout the church building.

You are requested to refrain from shaking hands, hugging, or other forms of contacting others.

Children's Church and Sunday School will not be meeting initially.

No coffee or other refreshments will be offered.

The congregation will be dismissed from their pews after each service to reduce crowding in the aisle and doorway.

The congregation is requested to exit the church following services so the facility can be wiped down in preparation for the next service.

Hymnals and other items will not be in the pews. Hymnals can be picked up from a table in the entryway and returned to the designated location following service.

Individually sealed and wrapped Communion elements have been ordered, and if received, will be utilized when we next celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

These new operating procedures will be in place for at least the next 6 weeks (through July 12).

While life around us seems to be getting back to "normal," it is important that we continue to do all we can to keep ourselves and others from potential exposure to COVID 19, or any other illness for that matter. By doing so, we work to do no harm to others and to love our neighbors. Thank you for caring about those values as much as I do.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

Chris

A word about current events

I was conflicted about what to share with you about the civil unrest across our nation resulting from the death of George Flynn last week. Then, Sunday night I came across a piece written by a former pastor here at LLCUMC, Rev. Steve Cox. I invite you to consider his words as they expressed my thoughts better than I was able to.

Blessings,

Chris

Shared by Rev. Steve Cox on May 31 on Facebook

Bias stepped into the streets of Minneapolis the other day. He dropped to a knee, landing atop the neck of a man he didn't know. The man looked different, though, so Bias rocked slowly back and forth crushing the breath out of the man who already lay handcuffed on the concrete.

Not many days earlier, Prejudice, the brother of Bias, saw a black man running, and that couldn't be good. He knew the man must be guilty of something, so he picked up a gun. Soon, the black man died.

It wasn't anything new, really. Bias and Prejudice have seen this as their job going back to lynchings, beatings, abuse, and even claims of having some sort of divine authority over those who look different. It is what they do.

This time, though, Courage spoke up. She walked into the streets of Minneapolis first, and then in cities across America, and she said, "I can't breathe!" She added, "Enough is enough. This can't continue." Her voice was loud and strong and clear.

Soon, she was joined by Anger. He didn't want to talk; he just wanted to throw things, break things, and burn things. So, he did. Poverty joined him. It was a great opportunity to gather some goods and poke a needle at the ropes that bind him in his place.

Fear and Ignorance got together, choosing to cower behind their bluster. They tweeted their outbursts about "thugs," "vicious dogs," powerful guns and military might.

Before long, Many jumped into the chaos. She couldn't decide what to do, so she offered opinions, looked for people to blame, and fretted about what this world is coming to.

Back at home, Privilege turned on television and scrolled through his various social media apps. "Too bad," he thought as he chewed on a piece of steak. "I really think someone should do something. Our leaders need to take charge of things." Then he flicked off the television and the phone, and he went to bed for the night, sleeping soundly.

In the meantime, Jesus stepped into the streets of Minneapolis, just as he had in Georgia a few weeks before, and just as he had done after every lynching, every beating, and every smothering. He knelt down, gathered George into his arms, and carried him home. And as he went, Jesus cried. After all, his death was supposed to have been enough.

***Memorial Service for
Mrs. Wilma Williams
Saturday June 6th,
11:00 am at LLCUMC***



Les Case

Michael Hatfield

Wade Davis

Don Leven Family

Richard Fuerst

Steve Raymond

Winnie Fuerst

Nancy Rowe

Pastor Tom & Jennifer Statler

***Diaper Collection for
Hillcrest families***

To help support the families at
Hillcrest Transitional Housing,
during the month of June we are

going to collect ***Size 4 and Size 5 baby diapers.***

If you would like to donate diapers, please bring
them to church on Sunday or drop them at the church
office Monday—Thursday 8:00—12:00.



Congregation de Mellier
Heart and Soul Children's
Learning Center
All Ministries
of the Church

June 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Services 10:00 Online	1	2 Church Council Meeting 7:00	3	4	5	6
7 Services 8:00 & 10:00	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Services 8:00 & 10:00	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Services 8:00 & 10:00	22	23	24	25	26	27