

April 29, 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all doing well. On the recommendation of our Bishop and health officials, we will not have any in-person events through May 17. However, we are all very delighted to learn that the extreme social distancing and quarantine measures have been effective. These measures have brought the transition rate (R0) of the virus to a manageable place. This is allowing our state to slowly reopen. Governor DeSantis has encouraged us to take it slowly, and will be giving us more guidance later this week.

We know how important it is to be together in worship and fellowship, so we have begun a PSJUMC Reopening Taskforce. The purpose of this group is to carefully and safely apply the CDC and State of Florida regulations to our local church and community. We will be first looking at ways to restart things that can be done with ten or less persons. We will have to be creative and work together to find ways to create community together. We will be investigating if this could include the Methodist Learning Center and some children and youth ministry. Later, when we are directed to move to Phase 2, there could be events of up to 50 persons. In each phase, we will make sure that the timing is right for us. As we make decisions, we will keep the most vulnerable in mind, remembering that Jesus commanded us to look out for the least of these. Below are the members of this task force, each of them is uniquely gifted to help us discern our way going forward.

Pastor Geoffrey, Chair
Bill Brown, Church Administrator
Courtney Knox, Methodist Learning Center Director
Paul Brown, Music Director
Beth Bauer, Staff Parish Representative
Stacy Harbin, MD (With Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital)
Ann Barnes, RN (With Gulf Country Health Department)
Mayor Rex Buzzett (City of Port St. Joe)

I am excited that our church is still going strong even if in a different mode. Our services are extremely well attended. Our ministry of feeding those in need has expanded, and we are finding new ways to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support and prayers during this time.

Peace of Christ,



Geoffrey



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