



OCUMC Newsletter

June 4, 2020

Dear friends and family of OCUMC:

When can we go back to normal?

Are you asking about the protests and racial tension in our nation? I hope we don't go back to normal. Normal seemed to work fine for me, but I'm a white protestant straight male. Normal didn't work for a lot of people. I'm upset at the looting and vandalism, but I should be more upset about injustice, deaths, and the fact that this Land of the Free has the most jailed citizens in the world. If African Americans and Hispanics were incarcerated at the same rates as whites, prison and jail populations would decline by almost 40%. I don't have an answer, but my family and I are participating in rallies this week because it's better to do something rather than nothing.

When can we go back to normal?

Are you asking about in-building worship? Not for a while. Clackamas County has clarified their steps and phases. Our Bishop and Conference has clarified their steps and phases. We are formulating our own five steps and phases to incorporate these realities. We are in our Phase 1 now. Here are some harsh facts about Phase 3 when we can get back together:

- 1) The congregation will be maxed out at 50. Sitting in family groups away from others. We may have two services, and we may take "reservations" and check everybody in for contact tracing.
- 2) NO meet and greet time, Sunday School, nursery, up-front children's time, coffee/snack cart, food (Communion qualifies as food – even drive up is not allowed right now).
- 3) NO live singing or wind/brass instruments. This one breaks my heart.
- 4) Building use and rules will be different. One door for entrance, another for exit. Everyone in masks. Please use the bathroom before you come, because we have to sanitize the stall after each use ("Go Before You Go"). No water fountains. Stack your chair when you're done because the next service will use new chairs. Basically, we're asking folk not to touch anything. Attendance pads and prayer cards will be electronic and handled differently. We won't even pass an offering plate!

Doesn't sound like normal, does it. Hopefully these phases will be short-lived. Phases 4 will be a less restrictive stage and Phase 5 is pretty much back to normal. Leaders, church council and staff will keep clarifying each stage of reopening as we are able. We will communicate through our newsletter, email, Facebook, and website at our progress – and we will send out snail mail to all when we can move to another phase – and the expectations/needs thereof.

When can we go back to normal?

Normalcy and ideal are not the same. We are working to make the world a safer place for all. We are working to make worship a safe place for all. We like the familiar, but sometimes the status quo needs to change. I'm reminded of Paul's words in Philippians when he shares, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹ press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (3:13-14). Welcome to the new normal.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and God be with you till we meet again,

Pastor Mike

Puzzle!

Use the code to find out what these biblical people may have taken on a picnic.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

(Genesis 3:6)

Adam and Eve 6 18 21 9 20

(Genesis 25:28)

Isaac 23 9 12 4 7 1 13 5

(Genesis 25:34)

Esau 19 20 5 23

(Numbers 11:5)

Israelites in Egypt 3 21 3 21 13 2 5 18 19

(Ruth 2:1-4)

Ruth 7 18 1 9 14

(1 Samuel 14:2)

Saul 16 15 13 5 7 18 1 14 1 20 5 19

(1 Samuel 14:29)

Jonathan 8 15 14 5 25

(Daniel 1:12-16)

Daniel and friends 22 5 7 5 20 1 2 12 5 19

(Matthew 3:4)

John the Baptist 12 15 3 21 19 20 19

(Matthew 14:17)

The 5,000 people 2 18 5 1 4 & 6 9 19 8

Answers: fruit, wild game, stew, cucumbers, grain, pomegranates, honey, vegetables, locusts, bread & fish



Vacation Bible School Update

It is with a very heavy heart that I make it official that we will not be having vacation bible school this summer. We kept putting this decision off hoping that things would magically improve but the reality is we will not be able to open our building to large groups in time for VBS. -Lesli Magee



Birthdays

MALLEN, JOE	06/01
PERSON, RACHEL	06/04
EVANS, KATHERINE	06/06
DREW, NICK	06/08
FRICHTL, JULIA	06/08
PALMER, TODD	06/09
EMMERSON, HUNNTER	06/20
MALLEN, RACHEL	06/24
OSTRICK-CRONRATH, JENNIFER	06/26
SHAVER, JIM	06/27
DIFRANCO, ADEN	06/28
DURST, RICK	06/28
DUVALL, SHERRY	06/29
THONSTAD, SHARON	06/29
SHUMAKER, JIM	06/30

Anniversaries

BUTTOLPH, VERN & VELMA	06/01
STREIGHT, WAYNE & PAT	06/04
WICKLIFFE, BOB & MARTHA	06/06
GREGORY, MAX & SANDY	06/07
ENGEL, MARTY & DAWN	06/08
FOURIER, MARVIN & DONNA	06/09
NORRIS, MICHAEL & ALICE	06/11
RANEY, GEORGE & GRETCHEN	06/15
MCCORKLE, GARRY & JOYDEE	06/18
FLOREY, RICK & SHEILA	06/19
SALTENBERGER, JOHN & ROSE	06/21
TONOLE, DON & MARJORIE	06/24

