



As Christ's Light of Hope, together we Become, Serve, Celebrate and Share.

In March, my expectation for reentry to in-person congregational worship was a grand Easter celebration with a full sanctuary, singing, and sweets. On this day, **May 28, 2020**, I have to let go of my expectations to encourage worship in a different way for a bit longer. Blessed are the flexible, for they will not get bent out of shape. This saying may not be a Beatitude, but it does provide guidance for our next steps.

Please take a moment to read the Ready, Set, Go brochure from the Iowa Annual Conference. **June 1**, we will be Yellow. For a church our size, we have *three* choices. Ignore the guidelines and do whatever we want. Recognize the need to be flexible and choose to love our neighbor while we adjust in-person worship. Continue with online worship only.

Our choice – flex and adjust in love for in-person worship. Worship will feel different. Look different. Sound different. Yet, our God remains the same.

Tentative June 7 Reentry plan. Please note if Des Moines County experiences an increase in confirmed cases – the reentry date will be pushed back.

What will some of the differences be? I hope you choose to focus on the Holy instead of the changes.

- Masks will be required until we reach the Green Stage of recovery.
- Congregational and choir singing will be on pause. I hope to have a song leader to allow us to sing in our heads if not our vocal cords.
- Communion will be on pause until we get the green light.
- Fellowship Coffee Time will offer grab and go Rice Krispie Treats and bottled juice without mingling.
- Children's Time will happen in the pews. Nursery and JUMP will pause until we get the green light.

When will we get the green light? Hmm, your guess is probably better than mine. Being United Methodists, we can't "bet" on a date.

For those of you who have contacted me about your preference for worship, thank you. Several have indicated the mask requirement will keep them worshipping from home. I honor your choice as each of us try to navigate these difficult days. My hope – as is yours – the virus disappears. Until then, we will love our pew neighbors choice to be safe.



What about VBS, the youth mission trip, the mission trip to Bidwell or Midwest Distribution? This is painful to type – postponed in following the Iowa Conference and insurance guidelines. We might offer VBS before school starts or during Christmas vacation. We are yielding to caution.

What about events and the gym? Events will be held to a maximum of 50 for a while. The gym will be open to 10 people who bring their own equipment.

Together, we will make this work as we choose to be flexible and gentle with each other. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for showing compassion and patience as we begin in-person worship again. You are missed. You are loved.

Please let me know if you have a joy or concern. I would love to pray with you. 319.929.3281

1 2 3 Simple Rules

Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.

The Iowa Annual Conference Crisis Operations Team is providing this Re-Entry Plan for the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church. This plan is guided by John Wesley's **Three Simple Rules**, which provides a message and methodology of how to approach our strategic and compassionate plan to care for our churches and communities through COVID-19. Wesley's rules have been placed within a spotlight framework to guide us as we move through a graduated 3-Level reentry process from red to yellow to green status in an intentional and careful model of care and mutual accountability.

Returning to full participation will be based on the oversight of the Office of the Bishop, Crisis Response Team, state and national guidelines, as well as the seasonal movement of the virus.

DON'T MAKE DECISIONS IN ISOLATION

Form a "re-entry" team that includes the pastor, staff and key lay leadership in the church. If possible, include a medical professional, and representatives from the Trustees and Hospitality team (greeters, etc.). Be aware of local government and health guidelines for your community.



Church Re-Entry Plan

Level 3 - Red Light Status: Stop All Non-Essential Gatherings. Essential workers only. This is the "Stay in Love with God" and stay at home phase of our ministry.

Level 2 - Yellow Light Status: Cautionary Return. This is the "Do Good" phase as restrictions are lifted. This means a gradual return to gatherings and doing so in a cautionary manner.

Level 1 - Green Light Status: Virus is Contained and People are Safe. This is the "Do No Harm" phase and permission will be granted to communities of faith to return to full activity and mass gatherings will be permitted. This will be in place only as church leadership is confident in the care of their community of faith.

Level 3



RED LIGHT

"Stay in love with God;"

Church Status

- Church is closed
- Essential workers only
- Follow physical distancing guidelines
 - wear a face mask
 - no physical skin to skin contact
 - remain 6 - 10 feet apart
 - park with space between car
- Stay at home
- High risk individuals shelter in place
 - over 60 years old
 - underlying conditions
 - tested positive or exposed to COVID-19 shelter in place for 14 days
 - includes staff, volunteers, parishioners and guests
- Life rituals
 - 10 or less
 - follow physical distancing guidelines

Church Protocols

- Hold on-line (live or prerecorded) worship services
- Worship teams/essential staff
 - follow physical distancing guidelines
 - frequently wash hands
 - use 70%+ alcohol hand sanitizer
- Disinfect high traffic areas
- Regularly disinfect work areas
 - computers, keyboards, mouse, phone
- Adult groups (18+) meet virtually
 - use ZOOM, Go To Meeting, teleconferencing, or other means of virtual meeting
- Youth/children's groups meet virtually
 - use ZOOM, Go To Meeting, teleconferencing, or other means of virtual meeting
- Nursery services closed

Church Sanitation

- Deep clean your entire church using EPA approved cleaning products that kill the virus
- Add hand sanitizing stations
 - preferably touchless
- Replace all HVAC filters
 - furnace, air conditioners, air cleaners
 - increase frequency of filter replacement
- Sanitize pews, bathrooms, doorknobs, water fountains, light switches, microphones etc.
- Sanitize nursery/preschool/children's areas
- Declutter and replace broken/worn out toys
- Shampoo carpets and do general updating
- Remove communal items (offering plates, bibles, hymnals, pencils, paper items etc.)

Church Finances

- Invite and encourage people to maintain contributions as best they are able
- Set up on-line giving
 - Contact Iowa Conference Treasurers office to set-up (515-974-8919)
 - or choose a reputable e-giving source

For recommendations on cleaning specific surfaces, we refer you to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>.

Level 2



YELLOW LIGHT

"Do Good."

STATUS CHANGES

The shift in Levels will be by a re-evaluation of the situation and will be communicated directly from the Bishop's Office and Crisis Operations Team. It is possible that COVID-19 cases will spike, decrease, and increase again. The Team will assess the threat and issue a notice to any changes in status.

Church Status

- **Churches over 50 Average Worship Attendance (AWA)**
 - advised to stay closed and continue on-line worship services
- **Churches under 50 AWA**
 - may open for worship following physical distancing guidelines
 - only worship in small groups
 - manage number of people in groups
 - have a contingency plan in place for overflow beyond the approved number of people
- **Church Business**
 - sanitize exposed surfaces between services
 - **Physical distancing guidelines**
 - wear a face mask
 - no physical skin to skin contact
 - remain 6 - 10 feet apart
 - park with space between car
- **Continue to hold on-line (live or prerecorded) worship services for high risk individuals**
- **High risk individuals continue to shelter in place**
 - over 60 years old
 - underlying conditions
 - tested positive or exposed to COVID-19 shelter in place for 14 days
 - includes staff, volunteers, parishioners and guests

Church Protocols

- **Adult groups (18+)**
 - meet virtually, if possible (if not, follow physical distancing guidelines)
- **Youth and children's groups**
 - continue to meet virtually
- **Singing and liturgical responses**
 - remove hymnals
 - do not sing and/or do responses during in-person worship
- **Nursery services**
 - not offered and remain closed
- **Children's Time**
 - children don't come forward and stay with parents
 - follow physical distancing guidelines
- **Communion**
 - offer at END of worship service
 - may choose to discontinue until Green Light status
 - follow physical distancing guidelines
 - stewards wear masks and gloves
 - provide disposable cups for juice
 - provide individual wafers
 - place in recipient's open hand
 - congregants exit directly
- **Bulletins**
 - do not reuse
 - remove after each service
 - consider using projection
- **Pew Bibles and hymnals**
 - consider removing
 - sanitize after each service
 - consider printing Bible verses in bulletins
 - consider using projection
- **Fellowship/coffee hour**
 - do not offer
- discourage mingling
- **Passing of the Peace**
 - use no-touch alternatives
- **Offerings**
 - use no-touch alternatives
 - use on-line giving
- **Life rituals**
 - follow physical distancing guidelines
 - funerals, weddings, graduation, and confirmation gatherings should pay careful attention to limiting and inviting guests
- **Vacation Bible School/Mission Trips/Lock-ins**
 - not recommended until Green Light Status
 - consider meeting virtually or mailing activities

Level 1



GREEN LIGHT

"Do No Harm."

COVID-19 VIRUS IS CONTAINED AND PEOPLE ARE SAFE

Permission will be granted to communities of faith to return to full activity and mass gatherings will be permitted without restriction.

This will be in place only as church leadership is confident in the care of their community of faith.

Green lighting for all activities will likely be guided by testing protocol for asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers, antibody testing, therapeutic drug therapies aggressively caring for those who have contracted COVID-19, and approval and availability of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Church Status

- **All Churches Open and Return to Their Regular Business Hours and Functions**
 - follow physical distancing guidelines
 - continue on-line worship for high risk individuals, those who feel uncomfortable returning, and those who have found a new church home worshipping with you on-line

Church Protocols

- **All Churches**
 - consider continuing to follow no-touch alternatives and Level 2 Yellow Light protocols
 - resume adult/youth/children group activities
 - resume nursery services following sanitization protocols

Please send your questions for clarification and comments to: iaumccares@iaumc.org. This document will be regularly reviewed and updated.



Anniversaries

Lisa and Paul Babcock	06-02
John and Margaret Woziniak	06-03
Rodger and Geneva McWhirter	06-05
Charles and Vera Anderson	06-07
Ed and Lois Fort	06-11
Barry and Andree Halden	06-11
Melanie and Joe Sullivan	06-12
Bob and Judy Adams	06-13
Jim and Barb Evans	06-15
John and Roxy Riessen	06-20
Bill and Linda Pilger	06-22
Ann and David Ure	06-23
Duane & Andrea Hartman	06-24

Birthdays

Amy O'brien	06-01
Ethan Zaiser	06-01
Norah Harris	06-03
Heather Brueck	06-04
Kara Jameson Stoner	06-06
Shelby Trafton	06-07
Mike Westfall	06-07
William Almack	06-08
Larry Crabtree	06-09
Dudley Cone	06-11
Jessica Davis	06-13
Janet Brissey	06-15
Mark Taylor	06-15
Landon Wynn	06-15
Lexi Wynn	06-15
Marion Bennett	06-16
Nicholas Hagen	06-17
Jim Massengarb	06-18
Carol Zaiser	06-21
Parker Davis	06-22
Dana Williams	06-22
Lynn Egan	06-24
Ed Fort	06-24
Tim Seibert	06-25
Cooper Crose	06-29
Kay Hagen	06-29
Alicia Kelley	06-29
Lisa Babcock	06-30
Landon Wells- Carter	06-30



Tim Ahern Retires

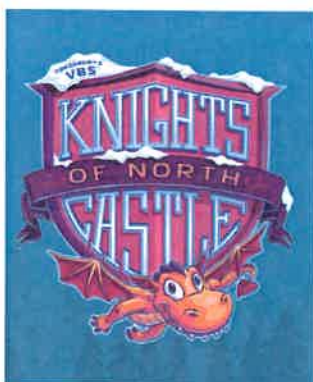
"I take this opportunity to thank you once again for allowing me to return to serve you this past year. Once again, I am retiring from directing the choir. Becky and I have recently moved to Mt. Pleasant, where I will continue to serve as a singer in the church choir of Calvary Baptist Church.

I want you to know I have cherished my time as the choir director at FUMC, and am grateful to have served the pastors who have filled the pulpit over those years. It goes without saying that I will especially miss my dear friends and colleagues in the choir, as well as Roxy, Melinda and others with whom I have worked. I value your friendship deeply."

As your pastor, when I asked Tim to return to the choir, I knew we would not have another decade with him. I am grateful he came back during an unhealthy season of life for me.

Luckily, Tim (and Jacob) have found a possible replacement from Bel Canto trained in vocal music. SPRC (church HR) will be opening up the position to take applications until June 2. If you are interested, please let me know. If you know of someone who might be, please have that person give me a jingle.

If you need any additional information, please let me know. 319.929.3281



VBS Postponed

At the recommendation of the Iowa Annual Conference and our insurance company, we have postponed VBS. When will VBS be rescheduled? Maybe August? Maybe Christmas Break? Maybe next summer?

Activity Packets and Amplify Resources will continue to be given to our kiddos.

Burlington Building Bridges becomes Independent

Vern Reed loves movies that share the journey of a person, a group, or a band. One of his favorites is the story of "The Temptations." It is an interesting and entertaining movie in so many ways. But, there is a scene that remains etched in his mind. Reed explains, "The dude, with the deep voice, has a debilitating condition that is getting worse and the doctor tells him he needs to quit touring. But, the singer says with great emotion... "Doc, have you ever been a part of something bigger than yourself?"

This movie truly encapsulates the Bridges out of Poverty initiative in Southeast Iowa! Who could have known back in 2015, how a "spark" of an idea percolated with Vern Reed, might become a fire, helping to bring some light to so many of our friends and neighbors in southeast Iowa?

Literally, this "spark" is serving hundreds of families in need with not only immediate hurdles, but helping empower each to write their own "future story". That is the strength of Bridges! This little spark has grown with volunteers, with graduates of ongoing Getting Ahead classes and with services to our community we could not have imagined!

Young House Family Services fanned the spark into a fire by providing an organizational home for Building Bridges. More than just support for Building Bridges, Young House willingly gave leadership, grant writing, and structure. Mona Ash was cultivated as a Family Connection Coordinator into the Building Bridges Coordinator. "I am beyond grateful for the amazing opportunities Young House Family Services has given Bridges and me personally. We would not be where we are today had it not been for their support and willingness to see this idea come to reality. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Young House Family Services and are excited to see what is next for the families, individuals and community we serve in this new adventure."

From day one, Burlington Bridges longed to be an independent 501c3. However, as a new program Burlington Building Bridges did not have the strength to do so. Young House gave Burlington Building Bridges time to essentially "grow up." Grow in volunteers. Grow in Getting Ahead success stories. Grow in community support.

On June first, Burlington Building Bridges is leaving the security of the nest with Young House Family Services. With continual growth as well as commitment from our community Burlington Building Bridges will become its own non-profit organization! We are so thankful to Young House for being willing to partner, support and help Burlington Building Bridges grow up. Without their vision and partnership this dream of Bridges standing as an organization itself, simply could not have happened.

So here we are! Burlington Building Bridges is ready to take the next steps as a full-fledged partner with the so many organizations already working to make a difference. With that said, our need for community support both financially and for volunteers has never been more important! Burlington Building Bridges has become "essential" in southeast Iowa for so many families and their children. Our strength is in partnerships; our mission has never been more important.

Burlington Building Bridges continues to office in the LOFT 416 Jefferson Street. Check out the website at burlingtonbuildingbridges.org. 319.754.8421

We believe that truly... "We have to be all in this together!"

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Monday, June 1 6:30-7:30 pm
Westland Mall Parking Stations
Beginning on the North Side – Younkers Side

Please join us as we drive to parking lot stations.

- Activity packets for kids or Upper Rooms for adults
- Flowers from the United Methodist Men for all women (as we didn't worship together on Mother's Day).
- Drop off mission items: feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, canned chicken, and/or cereal
- Receive Holy Communion wafer/cup.