

Thursday, May 28, 2020

A Messiah Family Update

from your friendly neighborhood Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Messiah family,

Bishop Brewer is allowing us to resume in-person public worship!

Our Grand Re-Opening is this Sunday, May 31 for Pentecost!

IF YOU ARE ILL OR NOT SURE IT'S SAFE FOR YOU TO VENTURE OUT TO CHURCH, PLEASE STAY HOME, WITH MY BLESSING. THERE IS NO SHAME IN CAUTION.
Please see below for how we will continue serving you.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO ATTEND, here's the deal:

- ✦ Please wear **RED** on Pentecost for the fire of the Holy Spirit
- ✦ All 5 worship services are at their regular times in their regular places every Sunday:
 - 8am Rite 1 Traditional Communion with a small Choir in the Church
 - 9:30am Rite 2 Blend of Traditional and Contemporary Communion and a small Choir in the Church. **There will be incense symbolizing the presence of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost at this service only.** If more people show up than you're comfortable being around, the service will be available in the Parish Hall on the screen, with Communion.
 - 11am Contemporary Communion with the Worship Band in the Parish Hall
 - 4pm French Communion in the Church
 - 7pm Casual Communion with a small Band in the Church
- ✦ Please **DON'T** park in our Tilden Street lot, because we use that for Drive Thru Communion and don't want any fender benders. Please park across Tilden Street at the Jesse Brock Recreation Center, or in our parking lots on Main Street or Woodland Street behind the playground, or in our vacant lot across Woodland Streets.
- ✦ Please walk **IN** the church through the doors from the Narthex and **OUT** of the church through the doors to the Memorial Garden and toward Woodland Street. I will be on the sidewalk to Woodland Street to greet you on the way out.
- ✦ You may enter and exit the Parish Hall however you choose.
- ✦ Fabric facemasks and hand sanitizer will be available for those who elect to use them.
- ✦ There will be no Nursery care or Coffee Hour refreshments until the pandemic passes.
- ✦ There will be Children's Church at 9:30 & 11am.

- ✦ **During Communion, please use the center aisle to go TO Communion and the side aisles to RETURN to your seat.**
- ✦ **There will be lines on the floor and altar rail marking 6 feet apart.**
- ✦ **Communion will be in individual servings**, with sterile bread and wine hermetically sealed in a tiny chalice. We will continue using the individual servings until the Bishop allows us to return to the common cup. Even then, we'll use the individual servings for those who would rather not drink from the common cup, for the Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and for Drive Thru Communion.
- ✦ **The 9:30 and 4pm services will still be online.** The links to see them live as they occur or later at any time are:
 - **FaceBook:** <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthemessiahwg/>
 - **YouTube:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMGcOY9SbS_6-6UXwaYncgg
- ✦ **Drive-Thru Communion will continue on the Tilden Street side of the campus** with our Clergy Team for our folks who choose to continue self-quarantining and the neighborhood people who appreciate that ministry:
 - **SUNDAY from 11am-Noon.**
 - **MONDAY from Noon-1pm and 5-6pm.**
 - **NOT on Tuesday-Friday anymore.**

If you're wondering how Drive-Thru Communion works, here's a link to a video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWuIhERe49w&t=0s>
- ✦ **The Pentecost Picnic is ON at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. This year it will be a true picnic instead of a potluck.** Each person or family will bring their own food, drinks, dessert, utensils, plates, cups, and napkins to avoid touching anyone else's food.
- ✦ **The Parish Hall is café style with tables 6 feet apart**, so families may sit together, and individuals may choose to sit as close to or as far away from others as they choose.

OTHER STUFF:

- ✦ **The Parish Office reopens June 1** with our regular Staff and the volunteer Office Angels who choose to serve.
- ✦ **Wednesday Morning Communion and Bible Study resume June 3** at 10 and 11am in the Church and the Library.
- ✦ **Sunday Suppers resume June 7 at 6pm, like the Pentecost Picnic**, with each person or family supplying their own food, drinks, utensils, plates, cups, and napkins.
- ✦ **All other On-Campus Groups are resuming.** Please contact your group's leader to find out when and how that will happen.
- ✦ **If you need groceries or toilet paper**, there is a Food Bank in the narthex hallway. Please come take what you need. **If you need food, please don't be too proud to come "shop."**
- ✦ **If you'd like to donate non-perishable food** to the Food Bank, please place it on the tables.

- ✦ **If you would like to give to the Church during these interesting times, you may:**
 - Mail in a check
 - Tell your bank to mail us a check through your online banking bill pay service
 - Give online through our website www.ChurchOfTheMessiah.com
 - Click on the "GIVE" button at the very top of the home page on your computer or in the top menu on your phone, and follow the directions.
 - Or scroll down the home page and click on the GIVE+PLUS button

Bishop Brewer's conditions for allowing us to resume in-person worship:

- ✦ **The Sunday liturgies and lyrics will be projected** to avoid people touching books people in the previous service touched. The books are all safely tucked away in bins and will return when the bishop lifts this prohibition.
- ✦ **The pews and other high-touch surfaces will be cleaned between services.**
- ✦ **The pews will be marked with where NOT to sit to keep folks 6 feet apart.** Families are welcome to sit as close together they choose! We'll alternate seating with folks at one end of a pew and on the other end of the pew behind it.
- ✦ **Clergy and altar servers will wear masks**, except when they're reading a lesson, preaching, or praying the Eucharistic Prayer.
- ✦ **Singers will be 12 feet apart**, since singing projects droplets twice as far as talking.

WE HAVE GUESTS!

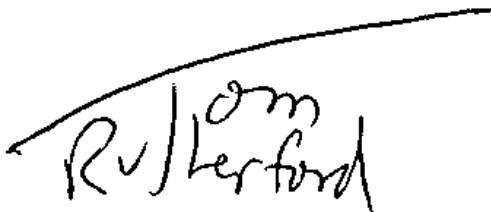
All Souls' Episcopal Church, the new church plant that meets in rented space in Bay Lake School in the Hamlin area, **is worshipping in our Church building for the next few weeks**, until Orange County Public Schools open up again to their renters.

All Soul's is our granddaughter!

In 1980, we sent 16 families to launch Church of the Ascension in Bay Hill as our daughter church. In 2019, Ascension sent 50 folks to launch All Soul's, making them our granddaughter!

And since good grandparents help their grandchildren through tough times, we welcome the All Souls' family to use our facility and equipment...for free.

Thank you for being flexible though these interesting times. I hope to see each of you as soon as you feel safe coming out. I love you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruth L. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. A long, thin horizontal line is drawn above the signature, starting from the left and extending towards the right, ending just above the "d" in "Ford".