



Centralia United Methodist Church

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

715 Orchard Street (Tarr Street at Howard Burton Drive) PO Box 108 - Centralia, MO 65240

Office: 573-682-3434

Rev. Bill Schnackenberg, Pastor

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www.centraliaumc.org



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

March 17, 2020

As you know we are living in a time of dramatic change. Events in our country and throughout the world have caused the church to look closely at all we do and how we affect people in our community. A new "normal" has been thrust upon us. **We continually look for ways to live out our calling as United Methodists by doing no harm, doing good, and fully loving God.** I'm confident that you will continue to be the hands, feet and heart of Jesus to each other and our community during this time of great fluidity.

Last night (Monday, March 16, 2020) the Administrative Board prayerfully took actions to help keep our congregation healthy. The Board agreed to follow current CDC guidelines and thus, **to suspend church gatherings of more than ten people for the time being.** What does this mean for us at Centralia United Methodist Church?

- Sunday worship services and Sunday School are suspended at least through the end of March, at least in our church building. However, we know that WE are the church, not the building, so:
- We will be **streaming our worship service online at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays** via our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CentraliaUMC); a recording of the service will also be posted to our website (www.centraliaumc.org) later that day. This migration to live streaming will continue even after we are able to gather together again, though at our regular worship times.
- We will be able to **print a bulletin and the sermon** for those who do not have online access. Please let us know if you would like these items sent or delivered to you.

THE LORD
BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;

THE LORD
MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE
UPON YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;

THE LORD
LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE
UPON YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

NUMBERS 6:24-26, ESV

-- At this time, the church office will remain open and can serve as a central point of contact for church family needs. My (Pastor Bill's) cell phone is 573-397-8901; my email is pastorbillcumc@gmail.com. The church office number is 573-682-3434 and the email is centraliamoumc@gmail.com. Office hours are Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 5:00pm.

-- If you are unable to leave your home due to being immunocompromised, please let me or the church office know if you are in need of having groceries, meals or medications picked up, or if you just need an encouraging phone call.

-- Likewise, if you are healthy and available, and would like to volunteer to help, please contact the church office.

-- If your small group wishes to continue meeting, we can help you set up a video chat option. Or, if your group numbers ten or less, you may set up times to meet at the church by contacting the office so we can ensure you are on the calendar.

-- If you need specific prayer our prayer team would be glad to add you and your situation to their prayer list. Please submit your requests to us here at the office so we can get them distributed appropriately.

During this time, **financial giving is still needed in order to sustain the ministries of the church.** You can:

- ⇒ mail your contributions/offerings/tithes to the church (PO Box 108, Centralia, MO 65240), or
- ⇒ have your bank send a draft to the church from your account, or
- ⇒ drop off your contributions/offerings/tithes at the church office during regular office hours listed above.

Your Administrative Board is continuing to monitor the evolving situation regarding Coronavirus and will evaluate the on-going concerns of our church as we attempt to minimize its effect on our community.

We will continue to provide updates via email, Facebook, our church website, and written memos. **Please continue to keep our entire church family and community in your prayers,** and feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Blessings and peace to you all,

Pastor Bill

Rev. Bill Schnackenberg

