



First United Methodist Church *of Hanover*

200 Frederick Street, Hanover PA 17331 • (717) 637-1574 • www.firstumchanover.org

September 8, 2020

PERSONAL GREETINGS FROM PASTOR GREG

I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement during my recent four week sabbatical, as well as our Staff Parish Relations Committee and District Superintendent Rev. Cathy Boileau for their work in making it happen. I am refreshed, renewed, and ready to go both physically and spiritually. I am back in the office and looking forward to resuming our life in ministry together. Here are some updates you will need as we move into September:

IN PERSON WORSHIP RESUMING

Starting this Sunday, September 13, we will resume in person worship with a modified schedule. Considering the relatively low number of worshippers that gathered previously at all four of our services, we will now be combining all four weekend worship services into **two Sunday morning services that will meet outside at Frederick Street Campus at 8:00 and 9:30 am**. These services will move inside in event of rain and when temperatures drop this fall and winter. **This schedule will be permanent for as long as pandemic social distancing continues.** Regardless of changes in group size recommendations from Gov. Wolf, we will continue to hold these services in person. (Services will be suspended in the unlikely event that a resurgence places our county under a complete shutdown of schools and businesses. Otherwise, we will worship using masks and distance precautions.)

NEW DRIVE IN WORSHIP

New this fall will be the addition of drive in worship. If you wish to attend in person, but want added protection you may stay in your car and tune in to listen to the services on your car's FM radio.

NEW AT HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL

Since most classes and groups are remaining closed this Fall, starting September 20, we are offering weekly materials for "at home bible study", personal devotion and discussion. Discussion questions based on the scripture lesson and sermon shared in weekly worship will be distributed as part of the online worship videos and emailed weekly. If you do not have access to a computer and would like to receive a printed copy through the mail, please call Julie at the church office to subscribe to this mailing at (717)637-1574.

HELP LEAD ONLINE WORSHIP

Worship has always been the work of all God's People. If you would like to help us lead online worship by leading prayer, reading scripture, offering special music, we record throughout the day every Thursday and would love to have you be part of it. Recording times are held Thursday mornings, afternoons, and evenings for your convenience. Recording groups are kept small and social distancing is observed. If you are interested and would like to volunteer, call Julie at the church office at (717)637-1574.

PASTORAL CARE AND VISITATION

We pastors still face limited access at local hospitals and retirement communities, so our normal way of being together in times of crisis are still disrupted. Wherever possible, I am visiting in person, but always wear a mask and use hand sanitizer before and after each visit. Other needs are addressed through phone calls.

COVID-19 will unfortunately be with us for many months to come. That is a fact of life that has been a source of stress for many of us. We choose to work with it the best we can, drawing strength from each other and sharing the peace of Christ which is desperately needed in these chaotic and increasingly violent times. Treat one another with gentleness. This is a gift our word needs from us right now. Peace to you! I hope to connect with you soon!

Pastor Greg

"Caring for Our Neighbors as Jesus Would"