

## Mount Jackson United Methodist Church

### Update from Healthy Church Team

Jan. 13, 2021

The Mount Jackson UMC Healthy Church Team met this week to review our Covid-19 procedures. We agreed to make two significant changes, starting with the week of Jan. 24, 2021.

- 1) **Registration/Admittance to In-person Services.** We have been requiring anyone who wants to attend our in-person worship to pre-register before being admitted. From the beginning, we understood that this is a confusing process and difficult for many of our members who do not regularly use the Internet. **Beginning next week, we will no longer require pre-registration.** Instead, we will use an option offered by the Virginia Conference called "Entryway Health Acknowledgement." Anyone wishing to come to an in-person worship will be required to answer several health questions as you enter the church, much like you answer when you go to a doctor's office or many other public places. The most important advice remains: **If you are sick, please stay home.** This process may slow down entry to the church. One benefit, of course, is that it means that once again we can open our doors to visitors who are willing to follow our procedures. Please stay socially distanced from people who aren't in your household as you go through the entry process. We have the sidewalk and hallways marked for this purpose.
- 2) **Distribution of bulletins.** As you know, we have been mailing and emailing the weekly bulletin. The mailings are a significant cost, and unfortunately the mail service has proven to be unreliable. The Conference gives us the option of placing the bulletins in the pews 24 hours before a service. **Beginning with the week of Jan. 24, we will suspend mailing the bulletins, but we will continue emailing it to those with Internet access. If you wish to continue receiving the bulletin by mail, please let Wendell Cochran know before Jan. 20. We also will print and distribute a limited number of bulletins to those attending the parking lot service. We will continue to post the bulletins on the church website and on the church Facebook page.**
- 3) **Some reminders.** The Healthy Church team has been gratified by the cooperation of the congregation as we have gone through this challenging time. We are praying that the vaccines soon become widely available and start to get the Covid-19 pandemic under control. Until that happens, we will continue to require everyone inside to wear face coverings; we will continue to keep our distance; we will continue to limit the size of non-worship gatherings to no more than 10 individuals. With God's help, we will emerge as a healthy, perhaps more resilient, group of believers ready to continue our mission of making disciples.