



Milton United Methodist Church
1007 Church Street
Milton, WV 25541
Rev. Nancy White, Pastor

September 10, 2020

To Our Dear Friends:

It has been quite an unusual time we have experienced and which we continue to live into, hasn't it? We have missed one another and have sought out new ways to worship, to serve and to be the church as we are called to be in our community. I appreciate your patience, your willingness to adapt and to assist. I am grateful for your continued support, financially and prayerfully. I am happy to share that the Re-Launch Team has determined that we will begin to offer In-Person worship as an option on Sunday, September 20, at 11:00 AM.

This determination is done with much prayer and thought toward keeping you safe and towards keeping others whom we may come into contact with safe as well. There are guidelines we must all follow and those are outlined here for you. I also stress that I take my responsibility for your care very seriously and that I wish to support you in your decisions. We will continue to offer worship at 11:00 AM on radio station 101.3 FM, which can be heard on the parking lot and the area close to the church. Recorded videos are posted on our facebook page (mumcwv) and the church website (miltonwvumc.org) shortly after the live broadcast has ended. I fully support your choice to remain at home or in your vehicle until such a time as you feel safe.

If Cabell County goes 'red' on the map used by the state, we will NOT have in-person worship that Sunday morning but will continue drive-in and video options. Along with other congregations, we will observe new standards for being present in the church building and in worship:

- Traffic Pattern: because of narrow hallways and the importance of social distancing, we ask that you enter the building using the entrance from the parking lot area to the hallway and that you maintain 6 feet physical distance as you make your way directly toward the sanctuary. Our exit after worship will be to either the ramp on the Church Street side, or other exits near the sanctuary. We will also physically distance back out the hallway. It is important to NOT stand/wait to talk in the halls and sanctuary but to make our way outside.
- Face masks will be required. If you don't have a mask for yourself, the church has a few to give. If you receive one, keep it and bring it each time you come to worship.

- New hand sanitizing stations are available for you. They are located on the wall immediately inside the hallway doors as well as two stand-alone stations near Friendship Hall and the sanctuary. It is suggested that you sanitize your hands as you enter and exit the building.
- Sadly, no hand shaking or hugging until we know it is safe for this kind of close contact.
- Seating capacity within the sanctuary will be radically different. Families will be able to sit together, but we will space others to separate pews and sides of the middle section, and ask that you respect social distancing with 6 feet of separation between you and others in the pew who are not of your household. We ask that you avoid the area closest to the organist and to the pulpit.
- The items from our hymn racks are currently placed in storage in order to simplify the cleaning routine.
- Cleaning and sanitizing by the custodian will help us to be safe. You are also asked to please do your part to take with you whatever you bring in, whatever you ‘use,’ such as tissues, etc. and not leaving item on the pew. We also realize that sometimes you just have to go, but if it is possible, please use the restroom facilities before you arrive at church or wait as you are able. If you do need to use the restrooms, please be mindful of cleaning with the supplies provided for you to make it safe for others. We do this in order to eliminate the potential for cross-contamination
- Our services will be in the same format as we are currently using for the parking lot and video worship. The worship time will be shorter than what we have experienced in the past. There will be no singing. There is no immediate plan for the sacrament of Holy Communion, although safe avenues are being explored.
- We will not be passing the offering plates. As you enter the hallway from the parking lot, you may avail yourself of the offering box provided there and we hope to have another located in the sanctuary area. Whether you mail the church your offering, drop it off, or want to make use of a bill pay system from your bank, it is all very appreciated. Thank you for your faithful support to the church through your donations. You continue to reflect the spirit of the Lord through your giving and sharing!

Again, I hope you know that I, too, miss seeing you and miss being with you in worship. I also hope you know that I want us all to be safe and healthy for the long run as I do for the community we live and minister in here. Please use your best judgment and continue to worship at home or from the parking lot as you feel led. Be in prayer for all of us and for God’s light to continue to shine through and for us all.

Pastor Nancy and the Re-Launch Team:

JoAnne Cyrus, Martha Deel, Gwen Reed, and Brad Stewart