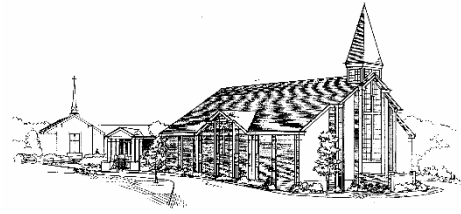


Bakerstown United Methodist Church

5760 William Flynn Highway
Gibsonia, PA 15044
724-443-3184



Rev. Keith A. Dunn, Senior Pastor
Rev. Luke A. Whipple, Associate Pastor

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We continue to experience God working in the life of our church as we navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. God's presence was made known as we used online devotions from our pastors and fellow church members. We praised God for the beauty of creation as we worshipped in our parking lot. I am expecting God to work as we make the next step in our journey as we move back into our sanctuary on Sunday, June 14th.

We will be in a familiar space but operating in some new ways. Your Church Council and I have done our best to keep the health and safety of the entire congregation in mind as we make this transition to in person worship. Your leaders and staff have worked diligently on your behalf.

While many of us are excited about this transition, I understand that there are some who will not be able to join us out of their personal health concerns. We respect your decision to stay home if you need to do so. We are committed to continue providing our worship service online via streaming as we have been since we moved to the "Drive-In" service.

If you plan on worshipping with us in our sanctuary, I am hoping this letter will help you know what you can expect. The Sanctuary will look a lot different from what you are used to. The pew racks have been emptied of bibles, hymnals, attendance pads and envelopes. There will be pews marked off for us not to use. There will be buffer spaces to provide for social distancing. We ask that you sit in the appropriately marked areas. In other words, if you are coming alone, please leave the spaces marked for a couple or group and sit in a space marked for one, even if it means sitting in a new spot. If you are able, you might want to consider using the balcony seating to allow those who cannot use the stairs to remain on the first level.

We will not be handing out worship bulletins on Sunday. You can bring the one provided in advance by mail or email. We will also be projecting the order of worship and any liturgy we will be using on the screen. We will not be passing the offering plates. They will be placed at the rear of the sanctuary.

There are some other things you will notice as well. There will be plenty of hand sanitizer placed around the sanctuary. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide a nursery or a cry room until further notice. We will not be singing together but music will continue to be part of worship. We will be opening our windows to allow fresh air to circulate when it is cool enough to do so and only use the air conditioning as needed.

Please wear masks while you are in the building. We realize that you may want to remove them during worship and would ask you to use your discretion in doing so. We will not be shaking hands or hugging. If you would like to visit with friends after service, please do so outside rather than adding to congestion in our narthex. When worship concludes, we would like to use all exits at the rear of sanctuary, including the side ones.

We will need to track attendance in case there would be a case of Covid-19 reported among our attenders after the fact. If you are bringing an offering, your envelope or check will serve that purpose. Those using cash or who have given previously, can sign in at one of the tables near the main and south entrances.

We are attempting to keeping you safe in two additional ways. We are asking everyone to try to use the restrooms one at a time unless you are accompanying a family member. We will also be cleaning “the touch surfaces” in between services. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help us. We can always use more help. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Two more considerations for our first time back. It will be the second Sunday of the month, which is usually when we take a mission offering. The baskets will be beneath or beside the plates in the rear depending on which exit you use. We will not be selling Giant Eagle gift cards this week but anticipate doing that as soon as those details are finalized.

I know this letter contains a great deal of information. We have included a resource sheet of “Do’s and Don’ts” as a summary. It is to be used as a quick reference guide for Sunday mornings.

I want to thank everyone for the cooperation and understanding you have shown the last few months as we have navigated these difficult times together. I ask that you continue to show patience as we move into the next phase of worship. I am looking forward to seeing you!

Blessings,

Pastor Keith

Sunday Morning Worship Do's and Don'ts

Don't...

Shake Hands

Hug

Congregate in Narthex

Expect to be given a bulletin

Sing

Pass the offering plate

Look for attendance pad

Expect to sit in normal spot

Come to church sick or if you have been
Exposed to someone with COVID within
The last 2 weeks

Breathe on everyone

Go to restroom in a group

Mass exodus through main doors

Lament the old ways

Do...

Use hand sanitizer

Talk to friends at a distance

Socialize outside

Watch projected order of worship or
bring a copy of one you received by
mail or e-mail.

Use musical interludes to meditate

Put offering in plates at sanctuary rear

If no offering, put an empty offering
envelope or a paper with your
name on it in offering plate for
contact tracing or use the sign in
stations near the doors.

Sit in places marked by group size

If you have been sick or exposed to
someone with COVID in the last 2
weeks, stay home

Wear face masks

Use restroom alone (except families)

Use alternate exits when possible

Expect to worship the Lord

As of July 1, 2020

In light of the recent order from our Governor and Health Secretary, masks are to be worn at all times. If you cannot wear a mask because of a medical condition only remove it when you are 6 feet or more from others.

Pastor Keith will remove his mask while leading worship and preaching when there is no one in the chancel area. This is to help in communicating.