



**The Shenandoah First United Methodist Church**  
**200 Church St.**  
**The “Booster” Newsletter**  
**August 13, 2020**

**Church News:**

**ATTENTION-** We **ARE** having live “In-Person” worship service in the sanctuary now on Sunday’s at 9 a.m. Please do not come before 8:50 a.m. 6 foot social distancing needs to be maintained between everyone at all times, we recommend everyone wear a mask, (if you don't have one, we will provide one for you), hand sanitizer stations are available. There is **NO** Welcome Center or Fellowship time. If you are an “at risk” person due to age or underlying health issues, take care of someone with underlying health issues, or just don't feel comfortable to come out in any group setting yet, please do not feel that you **have** to come to the live services. We will continue to live-stream the service on our church Facebook page. If you have any concerns or questions please call or email the church office.

**\*Notice-** Pastor Luke **NOW** does a “Prayer” Time & update on Wed.'s at 7 p.m. on our church Facebook page and a “Study” Time on Friday at 6 p.m. about “Discernment”, also now on our new YouTube link: [www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_zapfZGHY4G5FFYD6NKA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_zapfZGHY4G5FFYD6NKA)

**\*REMINDERS-** All church news and information is posted on our church website (be sure to check out all the different links and activities that are there). And note the church Google calendar is available so any current happenings and/or changes are there and our website. *\*We are working on embedding our Facebook Page into our website.*

**\*Church Office-** The doors to the church remain locked at this time for safety & health precautions during business hours, M-F from 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. If you have a need to get in the church please call ahead and we will make arrangements. Thank you.

**Church Connections:**

Telephone: 712-246-2081

Email Addresses:  
[churchs3cr3tary@gmail.com](mailto:churchs3cr3tary@gmail.com)  
[shenmethodist2018@gmail.com](mailto:shenmethodist2018@gmail.com)

Website: [www.sheniafumc.org](http://www.sheniafumc.org)

Facebook: United Methodist Church Shenandoah

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 394

**Pastor Luke Fillmore:**

Telephone: 515-419-1179

Email Address:  
[luke.fillmore@iaumc.net](mailto:luke.fillmore@iaumc.net)

**Secretary Cindy Nelson**

Telephone: 712-242-6143

Email Address:  
[cindy.nelson21@yahoo.com](mailto:cindy.nelson21@yahoo.com)

**Media Jeff Hiser:**

Telephone: 712-310-5057

Email Address:  
[fumc002@gmail.com](mailto:fumc002@gmail.com)

**\*Offering/Giving-** You may put your offering in the “Offering Boxes” on Sunday mornings, or mail them to UMC, P.O. Box 394., Shenandoah, IA 51601. **Or** by going to our church website and look for the word **GIVE** at the top right hand side of your screen or the bottom right hand side of your screen and clicking on to it and following the prompts. Thank you.

**\*SPECIAL FUND DRIVE-** We are currently providing our live-streaming with media equipment that is “doing the job”, but as we progress with our abilities to provide better quality and more in-depth ways we will need to update our equipment. So If you would like to donate to this special cause, you may go to our website page to do so. (\$4000 is our goal). *\*(You may also mail your donations or put them in the offering boxes).*

**\*Notice-** Free counseling & support for all Iowans is available from COVID Recovery Iowa: at [covidrecoveryiowa.org](http://covidrecoveryiowa.org) or call 1-844-775-WARM(9276).

**\*REMINDER-** In honor of our church “Sesquicentennial”- 150 year anniversary, we are making a special new cookbook made up of recipes that you & your families serve especially for or on any holiday or special time (this can be something you celebrate as a “holiday” or special time) and write a little note on the recipe why it's special to you. ***Each person may put up to 10 recipes in.*** So we would like for you to submit these to the church office by way of email or just mail them in. We need them in the office by October 15, 2020 to get published & out for Christmas, which is the actual anniversary day.

**\*REMINDER-** *With continued numerous COVID-19 cases in Page County, please be sure to maintain social distancing and wear a mask when out and about and in group settings for yours and others safety and well-being. - P.C.P.H.*

**\*NOTE-** Please go on to [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org) to see the Iowa Annual conference of The United Methodist Church Crisis Response Re-Entry Plan. If you do not have internet availability to see this please contact the office & we can arrange for you to come by & pick up a copy, as it is rather lengthy to send in the regular mail once printed out. Thank you.

**\*Please Note-** The attached message from the Bishop Lauri Haller & Rev. Dr. Lanette Planbeck in this newsletter regarding the wearing of masks. Thank you.

**\*Congratulations-** To Dave & Sue Kinney on the birth of their great-grand daughter, “Alice Campbell Kinney” born on August 10 in Dallas, TX. Weighing 6 lbs., 7 oz.'s.

**\*Special Mission-** If you would like to help the Hispanic Center purchase back-to-school supplies for children, please put donations in an offering envelope on Sunday & mark it “Mission” and put it in the offering boxes or you may mail it in to the office. Thank you.

### ~Last Week's Record

Live (In Person) Worship-14  
“Live” On-Line views-47  
Online/Facebook-216 views

### \*Total Budget Offering:

\$98,847.84

\*Missions-\$55.00

### \*Total Expenses to Date:

\$118,656.44

### \*Total Budget Expenses for

2020: \$192,773.00

### ~Birthdays & Anniversaries:

August 13- Sharon Stribling,  
Alan Stogdill, & Barb Teachout  
August 14- \*M/M Gregg  
Broermann  
August 15- Betty Benscoter  
August 16- Keven Livengood,  
Devin Morelock, & Carl Priebe  
August 17- Deb Milstead  
August 18- Darrell Allely,  
Steven DeLong, & Joan  
Hamilton  
August 19- Vicky (Tyner)  
Briggs, & Jessica Lambertsen

### ~Church Mission:

Know & Serve God by Sharing  
Christ's Love.

### ~Church Vision:

We will grow in holiness, our  
community will thrive, and we  
will make a difference in our  
world.

**\*Remember to stay in touch &  
lift each other up.**

**\*Needed-** The Hispanic Center is looking for a queen and a double sized bed for a family. If you have one please call the church office. Thank you.

**\*Dear Friends-** We will miss all of you. You have become our good Christian friends for the past 20 years. This is a very welcoming and loving church. We have been richly blessed to be a part of it. God bless all of you.  
Love, Bob and Jane Carmichael.

**\*REMINDER-** Pastor Luke will begin a section in the Booster called “Stump the Pastor”. So be sure to write, call, or email in any questions that you might have about anything at all: tough questions, easy questions, even just “how’re you doing” or “what’s your favorite” questions will do.

**\*Special- Starting- Covid Connections-** Since it's been so long since we have all been able to be together or maybe even to talk with each other. I thought it might be a good thing to have a section in the Booster where you all can just email or mail in what you've been up to during this time, any thoughts, or messages to pass on to others for us to put in the Booster. Just a kind of way to connect with everyone at the same time. Thank you, Cindy.

**REMEMBER THE VBS(2019) FUN.....**





Children's Time 2020

### **\*Order of Service**

\*Prelude:

Greeting & Welcome:

+ Call to Worship:

**L: Good Morning, we invite you to pause, stand as you're able or center your hearts at home. And join us in the call to worship.**

**L: What goes in must come out.**

P: May we feast on grace & truth.

**L: The table is long**

P: and all are welcome.

**L: Hallelujah!**

**ALL: Hallelujah!**

\*Opening Hymn: "God of Wonders" #3034

+Prayer of Connection+

\*Song: "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) #3104

+Old Testament Scripture: Genesis 45: 1-15

+Prayers of the People+

+New Testament Scripture: Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

\*Offering/Song: "Come To the Table of Grace" #3168

+Prayer of Gratitude+ & "The Lord's Prayer"

+Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 10-28

+Message: "Soul Food"

\*Closing Hymn: "We Are Called" #2172

Announcements:

+Benediction+

**\*Pastor-** Luke Fillmore/ **\*Pianist-** Terry Stafford/ **\*Keyboard-** Linda Haldane/ **\*Song Leaders-** Jodi Anderzhon, Deb Finlay, Jeff Hiser/

**\*Media-** Pastor Luke Fillmore, Jeff Hiser, & Jodi Anderzhon.

# To mask or not to mask, that is the question

By: Rev. Dr. Lanette Plambeck

With the questions regarding reentry and mask-wearing, Bishop Laurie and I thought it would be helpful to share with you what is influencing our decision-making process in the Iowa Conference. The purpose of this letter is to respond to four questions local church leadership is wrestling with around to mask or not to mask:

## 1. Does mask-wearing help prevent contracting or spreading COVID-19?

Our response is based on learnings from the medical webinars we are attending for the Crisis Response Team which is guiding the Iowa Conference reentry process and recommendations. These webinars are hosted by medical, epidemiological, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) professionals. One primary area they are currently aligned in is the importance of mask-wearing during the pandemic.

While medical-grade masks can be worn to **protect the wearer** from getting infected, unless there is a medical reason to do so, we ask that you do not use N95 or surgical masks as there is a critical shortage of these items for our healthcare workers and first responders. Those who are high risk may be advised by their physician to wear a medical-grade mask.

You may see several medical reports and epidemiologist updates on how cloth masks and non-medical grade masks can be worn to **protect others** from being infected by the wearer. When we talk about mask-wearing at church gatherings large and small, the mask donning is to prevent transmission to others, and this is their most important use whether in churches or your larger community. If we lower the likelihood of one person infecting another, we are actively engaged in the reduction of transmission.

When you are wearing a mask, your breath works in partnership with your cloth mask to trap a large number of these aerosols in the fabric, stopping the aerosols that carry the virus from being released into the air. When aerosols are in the air, they are so minuscule that when we inhale the fabric itself cannot prevent the Covid19 virus from getting through the fabric. Wearing a mask lowers the number of aerosols emitted into the air by the one exhaling who can unknowingly be an asymptomatic carrier or in the early stages of the disease. Wearing a fabric or non-medical grade mask is about caring for the other; when another wears a mask it is their care for you.

## 2. Ugh! Wearing a mask is uncomfortable and annoying. How does our Christian duty to one other intersect with the recommendation to wear a mask?

**“Dear friends, let’s love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7 CEB**

These words, along with the Great Commandment, along with many other words of scripture call us to love and care for one another, even at the expense of our personal preferences or comfort. From the beginning of the Church, this has been understood as the duty of every Christian. This responsibility is important for us to remember amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The act of wearing a mask, combined with maintaining appropriate distance, is an act of love and Christian care. We wear masks not to protect ourselves, but to protect others in the event we might have contracted the virus. None of us would want to expose one of our family members when we can take precautions to prevent it. Even more so, we would not want to jeopardize the members of our congregations who are at greatest risk of the virus. This is a minor inconvenience when placed next to the sacrifice of Jesus, our Lord.

## 3. Being told to wear a mask feels counter to my rights of liberty and freedom.

As we have listened in on the debate on wearing or not wearing masks, the objections to wearing masks tend to be more ideological and emotional than scientifically driven. To not get caught in a debate that divides more than unites, we have leaned into what mask-wearing can mean as a spiritual practice in this unprecedented time of the pandemic.

As a spiritual practice, to don a mask is to proclaim love of neighbor, especially our most vulnerable neighbors. In Matthew 25, Jesus implores us to care for “the least of these” and when we do so, we are caring for him.

Wearing a mask has also become a Micah 6 moment. By humbling oneself and even risking critique or ridiculed by others, one can bear up under people’s stares or remarks knowing their mask has become an outward and visible sign of God’s grace working in and through us. Many have found that choosing to wear a mask as a spiritual practice has deepened their faith, has improved their listening, and increased their commitment to their neighbors during this time of the pandemic.

Additionally, wearing a mask is a form of mercy and action in that since we do not know if we are asymptomatic or in early stages of the virus and since we do not know if those we are around will go home to people who are going through chemotherapy, are immunocompromised or are otherwise medically vulnerable, one’s choice to wear a mask is a way of extending care to those sheltering at home. We hope and pray for the time when wearing protective face masks is no longer necessary. But we also hope that these Matthew 25 and Micah 6 lessons God is teaching us through this practice of mask-wearing remain an integral part of our life of faith in the Iowa Conference.

#### 4. How do you respond to the “have faith not fear” dilemma?

When I think of the “have faith not fear” chant, I think of the many times we read the words, “Do not fear” in Scripture. But I do not think mask-wearing is about fear over faith; it is more about loving our neighbor. The parable of the Good Samaritan comes to my mind in this question. This parable is about compassion and sacrifice. It is about the willingness of the Samaritan to go out of his way and do what others would not; a willingness to give of his resources to care for another; a willingness to sacrifice his own immediate needs and preferences to consider the good he can do immediately before him.

##### Midrash Moment

Hebrew Bible Scholar, Vanessa Lovelace defines **midrash** as “a Jewish mode of interpretation that not only engages the words of the text, behind the text, and beyond the text, but also focuses on each letter, and the words left unsaid by each line.”

In a Midrash Moment, one of our Ministry Directors turned to the story of the Good Samaritan and offered one group of folks a simple test: “Everybody wear a mask for 5 minutes. Now, remove them. Pass your mask down one person. And now put on your neighbors mask.”

There were looks of discomfort and hesitation.

The Director said, “We cannot see what we cannot see. We do not know what we do not know. If you are not comfortable wearing your neighbors mask, you should be as uncomfortable breathing their air.

Also, were any of you worried about passing your mask to your friend, because you might have COVID-19, but don’t yet know it? Then protect your friend and ask them to not put on your mask.”

They continued with the words, “To best protect those around you, you should be committed to wearing a mask every time you gather in public spaces. As we walk down the street, enter the public square, or come to church, we can easily forget that we are called to be God’s witnesses in the world. Wearing masks is one way of being a witness and looking after one another.’

At that moment in the meeting, as people consider their own and their neighbor’s mask, one of the older gents said, “I guess we are wearing masks people.”

To the people of the Iowa Conference, I commend to you the question of Jesus raised in this parable in this Midrash retelling of the Good Samaritan story, “How can we be a neighbor to one who could become a victim of this unseen threat?”

Those in the room replied, “Be like the ones who show mercy and wear a mask.” Jesus told them, “Go and do likewise.”

Please send your questions to: [iaumccares@iaumc.org](mailto:iaumccares@iaumc.org)

