

September 3, 2020



“SEPTEMBER STIRRINGS — FIRST UMC IN-PERSON GATHERINGS”

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

We’ve missed gathering, one with another, as the Body of Christ in our connection at First United Methodist Church, Hershey. In my two months with you, I have met with various leaders, committees, ministry staff, parishioners, and small groups. Now it is time – providing the COVID19 Pandemic situation remains stable – for us to explore some more intentional in-person gatherings for prayer and worship. These “September Stirrings” are detailed on the next page.

First, however, I want to share that your FIRST UMC Leadership – (Trustees, Stewardship & Finance, and Council) – has approved purchase/installation of a “live-streaming” system in the Sanctuary. This is a vital step for ministry, and for our eventual return to some form of Sunday morning indoor worship. Installation of cameras and a video transmission system will enable us to “televisе” worship services in real-time for those uncomfortable or unable to attend in-person worship. At the same time, live-streaming will allow us to move “worship activity” (organ/piano music, preaching, prayer) inside the sanctuary. The reality is that the outstanding video production of worship services packaged for on-line participation cannot continue when we return indoors for sanctuary worship (not without additional staff support, that is.) Shawn Gingrich is already serving sacrificially, and cannot be expected to resume “live” Sunday worship responsibilities while producing the “packaged video” worship.

So stay-tuned. We will be on a waiting list for the equipment to arrive, and then for the installation to occur. It will not happen in the next month, but we will keep you updated.

In the interim, the “in person gathering” opportunities are listed on the next page. Please review and contact the office if you desire to attend. It is important that we adhere to participation limits in the first two events, and that in each of the events we practice distancing and face-covering guidelines, as well as recording those in attendance should there be a need for contact tracing.

Together, let us gather one with another, and

Let us do so in the spirit of Jesus’ sacrificial and servant-hood love, and

Let us lean into these “September Stirrings” that can guide us in future gatherings.

God’s Embrace In the Deliverance God Surely Is Seeking to Give Us ...

Pastor Troy Howell

“SEPTEMBER STIRRINGS — FIRST UMC IN-PERSON GATHERINGS”

Wed., Sept. 16, 12 Noon – A Meditation & Music Gathering (In the Sanctuary)

If you yearn for a “sanctuary” space to quiet your soul amidst the Pandemic, the national turmoil, and the stress of life, this “Meditation and Music Gathering” in the familiar (but missed) space of the First UMC Sanctuary, may be for you: (Participation Limited to 25; Must Pre-Register)

Sign-up Registration Required ([E-mail or Phone the Office at:](#))
Jeanne.cannon@firstumchershey.org / PH: 717-533-9668
Maximum of 25 / Face Covering & Social Distancing; no singing
Organ Music; A Stained Glass image reflection; & Prayers
40 minutes

Sun., Sept. 20, 5:30 p.m. – Informal/Outdoor Gathering for Community & Worship Acts

Our initial “outdoor gathering” opportunity: this event adjacent to the Church building will attend to prayer, a Gospel Word of Hope, and Music. This gathering is especially for you if the Sept. 27 event location and terrain may be an obstacle for you. (Participation Limited to 40; Must Pre-Register)

In Chocolate Town Park (Adjacent to Church Parking Lot)
Sign-up Registration Required ([E-mail or Phone the Office at:](#))
Jeanne.cannon@firstumchershey.org / PH: 717-533-9668
Maximum 40 / Face Covering/Social Distancing; Bring Lawn Chair
Moments of Prayer and Community; Word & Music Presentation
45 minutes

Sun., Sept. 27, 5:30 p.m. – Informal/Outdoor Worship Gathering in Community

An “all-Church” gathering in a spacious and open area (Camp Catherine) a short drive from Hershey: If you have missed seeing others, if you have missed being together and sharing in acts of worship with your sisters and brothers in Christ, then this gathering may just be for you. (No limit, But Please Pre-Register)

At Camp Catherine (1275 Swatara Rd, Hershey, PA 17033)
No Limit, But Please Pre-Register to Assist with any necessary contact tracing.
Register by contacting us @: Jeanne.cannon@firstumchershey.org / PH: 717-533-9668
Face Covering & Social Distancing; Bring a Lawn Chair
Informal Gathering with Prayer and Community Celebration, and moments of Word & Music Presentation