

Hello First UMC Family,

I write to you today with joy flooding my heart as we prepare to take another step forward together as a church. The last year has seen so much uncertainty and I cannot thank you enough for the ways you have offered support and grace as we had to respond to an ever-changing landscape of worship. I know many of you are eager to return to our regularly scheduled worship services soon.

Well, friends, that time has come! Based on several factors, the Reopening Task Force felt it would be good to begin transitioning back to our 8:30am traditional worship service in the sanctuary and 11:00am contemporary worship service in the Family Life Center on **Sunday, May 2nd**. This enables us to continue more fully utilizing the worship spaces we have and provide for what was our normal Sunday school hour to return.

That being said, the Task Force still asks you to observe the following protocols:

- Masks which cover both your nose and mouth should be worn at all times while in the building, even while singing and praying.
- Physical distancing should be honored as much as possible.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (new or worsening cough, new or worsening shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, fever), we ask that you stay home and worship with us live on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/fumcgreencastle/live](http://www.facebook.com/fumcgreencastle/live)).
- Should an exposure occur within our gatherings, please know that we will take appropriate measures to respond accordingly. This includes notifying participants of the exposure and possibly return to virtual only worship to allow for adequate time of quarantine.
- Use hand sanitizer and/or wash hands with hot water and soap regularly.
- If you use any space outside of the worship areas, please use the provided sanitizing spray and wipes to clean after using that space.
- For the 8:30am traditional service, Bibles and hymnals will be available on tables upon entry. When you leave, please place them on the table marked "Needs Sanitized" so they can be properly disinfected prior to the next week's service.

These protocols are essential to providing a safe space to worship as we continue to work together to stem the tide of the ongoing pandemic while also sharing together in our common time of worship.

Above all, please continue to wear the love and grace of God upon you as we seek to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we share in common. Even as we may have differing opinions and thoughts on all sorts of matters, what defines us is the cross which invites us to lay aside personal preferences and comforts of all sorts to the glory of God alone. May our words speak life to one another, may our thoughts be captive to the Holy Spirit, and may our ongoing work as the Body of Christ in Greencastle be salt and light.

Praise and glory be to God as He leads us onward together as His people.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Ryan Whisel  
Julie Rohm  
Kay Salmon  
Scott Highbarger  
Craig Emery