

mahomet ✦ united ✦ methodist ✦ church

Our Mission: To lead people to Jesus and help them grow as disciples

Good Afternoon –

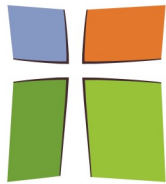
It's been around 12 weeks since I have been in the Mahomet United Methodist Church. Twelve weeks from seeing many of you and spending time in worship and fellowship with my church family face to face. I want to thank Rev. Craig for continuing to provide his daily comments and the worship time on Sunday. I know it takes a lot of people to pull all of this together, but from that first virtual Sunday worship to what we have today has been incredible. I enjoy seeing the many talented individuals and your commitment here at our Mahomet United Methodist Church that keeps our ministry and worship going during this pandemic. Thank You.

It's been a unique time for all of us as we shelter in place and do what we can to maintain our health and well-being. I'm thoroughly impressed with the folks on the front line that provide health care for the sick, the folks that had to keep working due to their essential status, and the teachers that had to pivot and provide the educational needs to the students in Mahomet. I also realize the other side where this time has caused additional stress caring for family members or friend that were infected with Coronavirus, individuals that may have been furloughed or laid off, dealing with the loss of a loved one, or not being able to see your friends and family. This has been hard for all of us at some level and my prayers are with you and my church family.

As the state moves to Phase 3, I felt it was important to communicate what your Church Council is doing. We have met every month since the shelter in place order was put into place. We continue to look at how we can lead people to Jesus and grow with them as disciples. Just this month, we formed a committee to look at all areas of the phased reopening of our Mahomet United Methodist Church. It's important to start this process and allow the various committees and ministries to come together but making sure we do this safely. The committee members are Gene Larson, Rob Parker, Margaret White, Janet Thompson, and Craig Kempher. Rev. Craig and staff will be included as well as keeping our incoming Pastor Rev. Lori Harvey informed.

I will state, our building may have been closed, but our outreach has continued over the last 3 months. I am impressed with your support to the mission of our church and support to the various organization such as Helping Hands, Habitat for Humanity, Mom's Pantry, and MAYC.

One of the first tasks that our reopen committee has been working on was a request from MAYC to use our building this summer as they care for the children of some of the essential workers in our community. This was first brought to council in May. One of the outcomes that came from the Appreciative Inquiry was identifying where we can provide more local mission support and activities. The committee took the opportunity this week investigate how we could do this for MAYC. The Church Council and Trustees met on Tuesday, Trustees met on Wednesday, and Church Council met Thursday night to make a final decision. The Trustees approved it Wednesday and brought this request to Church Council and it was unanimously approved to allow MAYC to use the building this summer. We are asking them to use the Northwest side of the building, and those exits and entrances, follow strict cleaning practices, and be respectful of the property and building. We have always been a strong supporter of MAYC and being able to provide our facility for 8 kids and 2 adults will only strengthen our relevance in the community and help the families that need childcare so that they can get back to work.



mahomet ✦ united ✦ methodist ✦ church

Our Mission: To lead people to Jesus and help them grow as disciples

We wanted to let you know, but also to let you know that the committee is also putting together the guidelines for other committees and activities to once come together again during phases 3, 4, 5. We will require and expect everyone to follow the federal, state, and local guidelines and will ask everyone to do their part in protecting themselves and others as we start to come back together again (in groups of 10 or less) and practice the physical distancing that is required.

This will take some time as we work through the phases and I know many of you want to get back to how it used to be. I'm one of them, but right now since we can only have 10 people or less, we will continue to worship virtually. As we look to coming back together again, I'm pretty sure it won't be like it was before. Any sort of change is difficult to manage but doing this together and for the greater good will be a welcome relief when we do come back together again. I'll leave you with this – whatever we do, we must consider that as we move forward, we do it with love for Jesus and love for all of you.

If you have any questions, please let me know or reach out to any of the reopen committee members.

Thanks

Jeff Bunting

Church Council Chair