



October 2020

The First Epistle

Newsletter of First United Methodist Church

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Outdoor Worship

We have exciting news! This Sunday, October 4, we will have our first in-person worship gathering since March. We will gather in the Pine Street parking lot to listen to music, hear scripture and a sermon, pray together, and celebrate communion.

Cars should be parked along the streets or in the Neighborhood Center lot on Maple Street. Parking along Pine Street will be reserved for those with limited mobility. A small amount of parking will be designated along the back row of the Pine Street lot for those who feel that staying in their vehicles is the safest way for them to participate. These parking spots are only available by reservation.

As you make your way to the parking lot, you will stop at a welcome table to register your attendance, leave an offering, and receive your pre-packaged communion elements. Masks, gloves, and sanitizer will also be available.

Then you will proceed into the parking lot and choose one of the socially distanced seating areas. These areas are designated for family groups, households, or individuals. Children should remain with their families during the entire service. Please bring your own seating.

During the service, we will worship together by listening to special music, hearing the scriptures and sermon, lifting our hearts and minds in prayer, and sharing in communion. You will receive your communion elements at the welcome table when you arrive. Keep them sealed until instructed. After the communion prayer, everyone will partake of the communion elements together from their seats.

Masks or cloth face coverings are required during the entire service (except during communion.) All households and family groups should stay at least 6 feet apart. There will be no group singing. There will be limited access to the building but for emergencies, the fellowship hall area will be open for restrooms. Everyone is required to register their attendance, and reservations are strongly recommended for planning purposes. Those who are sick, vulnerable, or unable to wear a mask should stay safe at home.

These outdoor services held during the month of October are a supplement to the online services that will continue to be available. Those who do not feel comfortable gathering in person are encouraged to worship at home.

Please make reservations by going to www.1stchurchjc.org and clicking the Reservations box or contact the church office at (423)928-9222 and leave a message to make reservations.

Looking forward to seeing you!
Pastor Jodie

First Church By The Numbers: September

160 Meals Prepared for the Melting Pot

Ham and cheese sandwiches along with a granola bar, potato chips, and water, prepared by 7 volunteers

180 masks distributed to children, youth and adults

Prayer List for September 2020

John Cradic	Bill Carter
Dalton Gough	Brother's Keeper
Jason Mills	FUMC Pastors and Staff
Steve Wilkinson	ELC
Catherine Cartus	Steve Holmes
Family Promise	Nate Berning
Samantha Sams	Teachers, Students, Schools
Hurricane recovery	United States
Treatment & vaccine for COVID19	

We extend our sympathy to the family of Evelyn Moore, who passed away on September 15; the family of Robert Kostreva, who passed away on September 19; and the family of Garland Anderson, who passed away on September 10.

First Church Face Coverings



Available for donation to children and youth ministry

Outdoor Group Gathering Guidelines

Small groups, Sunday school classes, and other groups may now meet outside on the church property, parks, backyards, or other outdoor locations.

Please remember:

- ⇒ Masks must be worn, even outside
- ⇒ Distancing must be observed between household groups
- ⇒ Attendance must be kept (for potential contact tracing)
- ⇒ Food and drink must be pre-packaged, pre-made, or served with limited contact
- ⇒ Those who feel sick should not participate

Groups wanting to gather on the church property should email office@1stchurchjc.org to reserve space. Also, all groups must complete the Outdoor Gathering Checklist found on the church website and submit the completed form to the church office after the gathering.

Save the Date!

Charge Conference is October 25 at 3:00 pm via Zoom. All committee chairs and ministry team leaders should plan to attend. The link for the meeting will be sent out closer to the day.



Help us continue sharing the Good News to the ends of the earth. Support our technology upgrades with your financial gifts. Mail gifts to FUMC, 900 Spring Street, Johnson City, TN 37604 or give online at <http://bit.ly/GiveTo1st>

We all miss worshipping and singing together, but we have a great opportunity to virtually join our voices in praise. Steve Reis is going to lead the song "How He Loves" in a few weeks during the online service, and the last section of the song is at <http://bit.ly/1stchurchhow> All you have to do is listen to that song on your earphones while someone videos you singing along, then send the video to Gary Ihfe. Call or text Gary at (423) 303-6851 if you need help sending your recording or if you have questions.