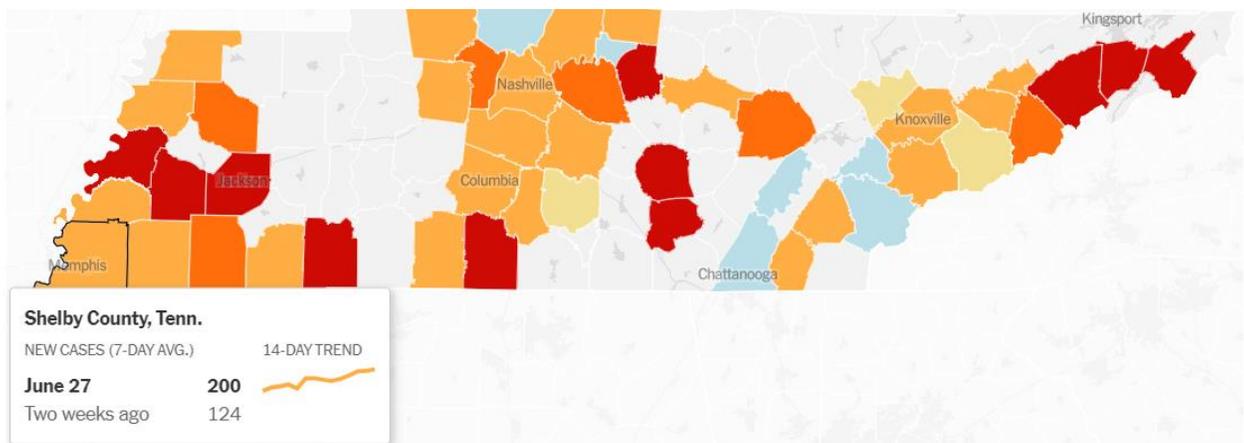


Reopening Committee Update June 29, 2020

While the worship service at Home Place on June 14 was successful from a spiritual and fellowship perspective, several people complained about the heat with at least one person having heat related illness afterwards. Unfortunately, moving the service to start at 9:00 AM would not substantially alleviate this problem and it will only get worse as we move further into summer. Therefore, the Reopening Task Force has recommended, and Council has approved, not returning for worship to Home Place for the foreseeable future.

Regarding having services at Schaeffer Chapel, there are several concerns that the Task Force is still evaluating:

1. Despite the restrictions put in place, COVID-19 cases continue to rise at an accelerating rate in Shelby County. This means the risks are even greater now than earlier in the pandemic.



2. Hospitalizations are also rising. There are some hospitals that running low on ICU beds.
3. There have been several super spreader events that have been traced back to worship services.
4. Due to the data points above, the ELCA SE synod is strongly discouraging normal services. They are also very concerned about the health of elderly members of the congregations.
5. Locally, Kingsway has not yet provided cleaning procedures for the Chapel. The Council is concerned about the risk of accidentally damaging Kingsway property (e.g. pews) by using incorrect cleaning solutions.
6. Finally, attendance would be very constrained in the Chapel. We could fit only 20 attendees, and this would be for a non-singing, shortened service. Also, significant time would have to be allowed for cleaning both before and after service.

Therefore, service will continue to be only via Zoom for at least several more weeks. The Task Force is continuing to monitor the situation and consider alternatives.

In lieu of getting together in person at the Chapel, the Task Force will be organizing a Zoom social hour. The current tentative date is Wednesday, July 8. This will be a chance for everyone to reconnect with each other. Be looking for a separate email announcement. If there is positive response, we can continue this on a periodic basis.