



The Tentmaker

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Daphne, Alabama

May 20, 2020

Message from Thack

Blessings to all of you! I hope you are managing well in our COVID-19 world. I am pleased to report our Diocese has tentatively authorized the reopening of corporate worship beginning on Sunday, May 31. That will be Pentecost Sunday so please remember to wear **red**! This may change if the health department reports a spike in COVID cases in Baldwin County before then. Please stay tuned.

It will be nice to see you when we gather together again. However, worship will not look the same at the beginning. Bishop Russell has instituted some policies to protect the safety of our congregants. I agree with the policy requirements and believe they are not too onerous, especially since the coronavirus will still be with us on May 31 and beyond. The protocol includes the following:

1. VULNERABLE PEOPLE All vulnerable people (those with immunodeficiencies, the elderly or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, and asthma), should consider staying home until the weekly number of COVID-19 cases in our community begins to go down. We will continue to live-stream all future services so you may still worship with us virtually.

2. SELF-QUARANTINE Please stay at home if you feel sick.

3. PHYSICAL DISTANCING All congregants (except for members dwelling together) must sit at least 6 feet from one another. Masking tape will be used to set up a system to indicate approved seating. We will post in an eblast and on the Prayer Circle a downloadable digital copy of the Sunday bulletin on the Saturdays before the services the following Sunday. It will contain the entire service, including music, so no one will have to touch a *Book of Common Prayer* and *Hymnal 1982*. A few printed copies of this service bulletin will be available on Sundays for visitors. All individuals must maintain at least 6 feet between themselves and others at all times, including entering and exiting the building.

4. FACE COVERINGS Face covering is the recommended practice by all health officials. It is an important way to love your neighbor. Thus, face coverings **are mandatory** for everyone attending in-person worship services. Because masks are hard to find, we request you bring one from home or wear a bandanna or handkerchief over your nose and mouth.

Clergy may remove their face covering to preside and to preach, as long as they are 12-15 feet from others. A face covering for the priest is required while saying the Eucharistic Prayer with the exception that it may be removed if the elements are covered by a linen cloth. Lectors and intercessors may remove face coverings when reading while also maintaining 12 -15 feet from others. Assuming everyone practices proper social distancing in the pews, the face covering may be removed once the parishioner is seated. However, the face covering should be covering the face during any congregational responses during worship, when approaching the altar rail for communion, and when exiting the worship space.

5. SINGING For now, congregational singing is suspended. Soloists, duets or instrumentalists are a preferred alternative, as long as musicians have a radius of 15 feet of separation from each other and the congregation. Our faithful "corona choir" will prerecord music for all Sunday services until they can perform in person.

6. ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION The Holy Eucharist shall be celebrated with chalice and paten on the altar. However, we shall receive communion in one kind only (bread) until the weekly number of COVID-19 cases decreases. The chalice will be offered as well when the cases begin decreasing.

7. THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE The Peace should be exchanged without any physical touch and by maintaining physical separation.

8. OFFERING/COLLECTION Offering plates will be placed in a fixed, conspicuous place[s] for contributions, while encouraging online giving if available.

9. FELLOWSHIP We want people to safely interact with one another. Thus, we will not have formal fellowship times like coffee hour before or after the worship services. This will not prevent people from talking to one another but will reduce the temptation toward unsafe behaviors. We will continue to have an online fellowship/coffee hour via Zoom Video Conferencing as we have over the last five weeks. The invitation to the virtual coffee hour will be published online every Saturday via an eblast and on the Prayer Circle.

10. NURSERY AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION At this time nursery/childcare and in-person Christian Education on Sundays are prohibited. We will continue to have Youth and Adult Christian education online at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday.

11. IF SOMEONE CONTRACTS COVID-19 If someone in the congregation contracts COVID-19 after worshipping at church, the clergy or Senior Warden shall be informed immediately. Attempts will be made to notify all those in the congregation who were present at the particular service with the person who became ill. Decisions about quarantine should be made in conjunction with local health officials. Additionally, we will conduct a thorough cleaning of the worship space, bathrooms and common areas before the next scheduled service.

12. CONTACT TRACING Because of the importance of contact tracing, each parishioner will fill out an index card before leaving the worship service indicating their name(s) and the date and time they worshipped. They will then leave them in the pews to be collected by the ushers. This way, if someone attends a service and has COVID-19, the health officials will be able to conduct contact tracing of the other congregants who attended the same service.

While these requirements will be awkward and unfamiliar the first few times we worship together, we will soon get the hang of things. Naturally, I'm not thrilled about these restrictions, but understand they are necessary for the health and safety of our worshippers. I would rather err on the side of your safety than expose folks to possible infection. All I ask is your patience and your PRESENCE when we open our church doors to the public again. Hopefully these restrictions will be lifted within a couple of months.

Peace, Thack

Thank you!

My family and I are grateful for your prayers, messages and cards of condolences following my father's death. It is comforting to be a part of such a loving community. Thack

ATTENTION ALL USHERS

We will have a meeting on Monday May 25th at 5:30 that will include all 8:00 and 10:30 ushers. Thack will meet us in the church to give us our new COVID-19 ushering instructions. We will have a few extra duties until Bishop Russell feels it will be safe for us to return to our normal duties.

Please text or email your RSVP to 251-689-5393 or donnal5113@gmail.com. We will have written instruction to hand out at the meeting.

God's peace,

Donna Brown

St. Paul's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop reopened on May 12th and has been up and running for a week. The Board and staff are thankful to God that we are off to a good start and sales have been steady. Everyone is obeying the new rules that have been established and we are grateful for the cooperation. Don't forget, if you have donations, we are now receiving items at the shop. Great way to help the Thrift Shop and our Church community. Without your generosity and support, the Shop would not have such great items for sale. Remember hours are currently from 10 AM until 3 PM, Tuesday through Saturday.

Looking for meaningful work? St. Paul's Thrift Shop has 2 immediate openings for staff assistants. Employees work an average of 35 hours per week and the staff assistants must be able to move and lift furniture and heavy items. No experience required, will train. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Mallory at the Shop, (251) 626-6102.

Also, we are in need of volunteers. Please consider volunteering a shift or two to help us help the needy in our community. The blessings are free and bountiful.

A note from Jim Blackwell

Today I heard a pastor on the radio speaking of the need for church attendance. It brought to light recent feelings that I've had of something missing in life. God summed it up in Genesis 2:18, where He said, "It is not good that man (woman) should be alone."

We can expand on God's meaning by considering what we gain from church attendance:

1. We meet new people.
2. We see and remember faces we can't put names to.
3. We support existing friendships
4. We expand our friendship with God, which invigorates our Christian faith.

Maybe, like me, the COVID-19 Virus has exposed a hollow spot in your life from lack of interaction with God through church attendance and weekly programs. John 6:63, NKJV, says, Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life."

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, *Rector*
Elizabeth Faust, *Christian Education & Preschool Administrator*
Tina Erickson, *Youth Leader*
David Kielek, *Life Center Sexton*
John Matson, *Choirmaster*
Terri McMillan, *Administrative Assistant*
Joan McKnight, *Staff Assistant*

Office Hours 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)
8:00 a.m. — Noon (Friday)

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Facebook Page: St. Paul's Eastern Shore
Thrift Shop Telephone: 251-626-6102

*We worship together as we seek God, serve God,
and share God with love and acceptance for all.*