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To Our Dear Church Family,

This past year has been challenging for everyone, and we are grateful our staff has made it possible to be in worship online EVERY Sunday (or whenever we watch) since COVID began. When CDC guidelines began to lift some restrictions, a Committee (Committee to Plan In-Person Worship) was formed at David's to discern and ensure the health and safety of everyone as David's prepares for a safe return to In-Person Worship. We appreciate your patience and pray you'll trust that we're proceeding as swiftly and safely as possible and grant us grace to adjust as things change almost daily.

**Here is the latest update from the Committee to Plan In-Person Worship:**

On Sunday, June 6, David's United Church of Christ will be returning to In-Person worship, with one service beginning at 9:50 a.m. while continuing to offer our service online; as we recognize that some people have a desire to gather in our Sanctuary, while others may prefer to meet virtually. Our heart's desire is to help meet the spiritual needs of everyone in our community, helping them experience God regardless of how they join us for worship. We care deeply about the physical and spiritual health of our church family and community, so we are taking steps – outlined below – to make our In-Person worship experiences as safe as possible. We are also continuing to closely monitor the situation and are prepared to adjust as needed.

**Online Worship Services**

We're committed to providing a high-quality online worship experience and are working to upgrade our technology so you and the people you're inviting to join can experience worship at David's in the best way possible. You can continue to find us LIVE on the David's United Church of Christ Facebook Page on Sunday mornings beginning at 9:50 a.m. You can also watch on demand anytime as the worship services are saved to our Facebook page. Our online services are here to stay because it has been a wonderful way to expand our outreach and stay connected with people outside the locale or unable to attend in person at the traditional time.

**In-Person Worship**

Here's how we're promoting health and safety during our In-Person Worship:

- While we hope that everyone present has been vaccinated, we realize some of those returning may not be vaccinated yet, so we strongly recommend that masks be worn at all times to protect the most vulnerable, especially the children who are not yet eligible. We also encourage social distancing and frequent hand washing. We will have hand sanitizing stations available throughout the building.

- Worship will be a little different as we return. We will have bulletins available for people to pick up as they make their way into the sanctuary. We are also not going to have a passing of the peace, and our offering will be taken up at the end of the service. We will have two Deacons holding offering plates and you can drop your offering into the plates as you exit church. Also, we are still not going to have singing just yet, but we are planning on humming some of our hymns.

### **Kids + Students**

Join Pastor Michelle on Facebook – we have a Families of David’s United Church of Christ Facebook page. This is a group that was started last year at the beginning of COVID and it has become a wonderful space for fellowship. Pastor Michelle updates this group regularly on any upcoming family events. Children are welcome to join their families during worship in the Sanctuary and their accompanying adults are encouraged to bring quiet activities to occupy the children during worship which will include a Children’s Moment. Currently, no nursery or Sunday School is available, but we are hopeful that we will resume our programming in the Fall.

### **Adult Groups**

Warm Wishes – creators of fleece hats, scarves and mittens for those in need continue to meet on Monday mornings from 9:30 to Noon in Fellowship Hall. All willing to wear masks are welcome to join this ministry! Questions? Contact Nedra at 937-416-4164

Quilting Ministry meets every Tuesday in Fellowship Hall from 10 to 2 creating quilts for patients at the Victory Ridge Hospice Unit of the VA Center in Dayton. Come and stay a little while or pack a lunch and stay into the afternoon. All willing to wear masks are welcome to join this ministry! Questions? Contact Debbie at 937-689-4224

Pastor Brian’s In-Person Book Study – Pastor Brian’s In-Person “Experiencing Jesus” study, based on Jesus Seminar scholar Marcus Borg’s book: “Jesus; Uncovering The Life, Teaching and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary,” continues to meet on Mondays, at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall through July. We are discussing the book and viewing lectures by the author via DVD. To join email Pastor Brian at [brian@davidsucc.org](mailto:brian@davidsucc.org).

### **How You Can Help**

- If you have health concerns, or if you or a family member don’t feel well, please stay home and worship with us online. Continue practicing physical distancing of at least six feet between yourself and other guests and wash your hands often.
- If you want to socialize with other guests following worship, please consider doing so outdoors. Refreshments following the service in Fellowship Hall will not be available yet. Also, we just ask that you continue to be flexible and show grace toward one another

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Pastor Michelle and she will pass along any questions or concerns to the Committee.

Blessings, Pastor Michelle and The Committee to Plan In-Person Worship (*The Other Members of this Committee are Gen Cook, Dave Dhanraj, Kathi Herick, Debbie and Kevin McCoy, Michael Roediger, Connie Wade, Ed Webb, and Tom Webb*)