

January 27, 2021

Dear Friends,

The Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, and Trustees meet every few months to have prayer, conversation and discernment about our ministries and the use of the building. We are grateful for the many in our congregation and staff who continue to support the ministries of Jesus here through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We are grateful for the Trustees who are looking into ways that our church can invest in making improvements in our building so that we will have better air quality and circulation. The Trustees are also exploring ways to invest in technology that will help our church share the Good News of Jesus with a wider, online congregation. We look forward to worshiping again in our beautiful sanctuary, but also realize that the new reality for churches reflects a robust online congregation.

Due to the Covid numbers, information from local health officials, and recommendations of the CDC, and our own discernment, we will continue to worship online until at least early May. The team will meet again in mid-April to pray, have conversation and further discernment. Until then we are grateful for the Worship Team which will continue to plan, organize, record, edit, produce and post meaningful worship experiences. In addition to online worship, the Worship Team will also be organizing the following outdoor worship experiences:

Ash Wednesday.

February 17, 2021 at 7:30PM.

In the back parking lot at the Chatham UMC. (and via Facebook Live)

People can stay in their cars and tune their car radio to 90.5FM to hear the brief music, prayers, and liturgy. There will be a fire pit burning in the church parking lot. At a certain time, people will be invited to come as they wish to put a piece of paper with a lament written on it, into the fire. For those who wish, the imposition of ashes will be offered by the pastor, who will dip a disposable Q-tip in prepared ashes to make the sign of the cross on a person's forehead or hand. People can then return to their cars for the benediction. We will be practicing social distancing and have consulted with churches throughout the country regarding the best practices that provide meaningful and safe worship experiences. We want to spread the Good News, but not the virus. (The building, including restrooms will still be closed.)

Easter Service.

Sunday, April 4, 2021 at 10AM.

In the back parking lot at the Chatham UMC. (and via Facebook Live)

People can stay in their cars if they wish and tune the car radio to 90.5FM to hear some Easter music, scriptures and message. People may also get out of their cars, weather permitting and set up a folding chair safely distanced in our back parking lot. There will be a sound system that projects pretty well in our outdoor services. We may even have visual projection on an outdoor screen, as well as an option to view this via Facebook Live. We are grateful for our traffic usher team and welcome team that has practiced how to welcome people and guide traffic. (The building, including restrooms will still be closed.)

Thanks for your ongoing faithfulness here at Chatham UMC!

Sincerely,

Members of the Chatham UMC Church Council, Board of Trustees, and Staff Parish Relations Committee.