



Dear Church Family,

Just days ago, I packed two important symbols from my desktop for arrival in Demopolis. One is a cross, a gift from a youth group—presented to me after a mission trip. The other symbol is a compass. Both represent, for me, a profession of faith to live out my baptism where ever God leads us.

Debbie and I will be arriving on June 25th. We are very seasoned in the art of moving (although we are not fans of boxing and unboxing our stuff). In every move there is a pleasant moment, when the movers have left and we breathe into our new surroundings, “We are HERE!”

In this next chapter of our lives, amidst Covid-19 challenges, we will pray together, study the sacred texts of Scripture together, and let Jesus be revealed to us in the breaking of bread.

Debbie and I want to build a good relationship with every one of you. This is agenda #1 for us. We want to listen as you tell us your story. We want to let your story become our story. To let your faith journey become our faith journey. To let your parsonage become our home. And to let your beloved and talented staff become family to us.

Over time, we will be reminded, over and over again, to give thanks to God, for ministry happens best of all—in the midst of a sacred relationship.

I can hardly wait to place the cross and the compass on my new desk in my new office. The rest, and we trust, the very best, is yet to come.

Faithfully yours,

bill@fumcdemopolis.com

REOPENING THE CHURCH

The Leadership Committee and Staff met recently. The committee and staff would like to thank everyone for their patience during these unsettling times. The decisions have not been easy to make. We want to make sure our congregation and staff are safe.

Based on the recommendations by Bishop Graves, we are planning to open the church for worship in phases beginning Sunday, July 5th. We are all excited about coming back to church to worship and fellowship together.

Phase One:

Sunday, July 5th:

- 8:45 am – Contemporary Service in the Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 am – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
- 11:00 am – Contemporary Service in the Fellowship Hall

PLEASE NOTE SERVICE TIMES.

PRECAUTIONS

- At this time, we will not offer child care. We welcome ALL of our children to the service, so families can worship together.
- If you feel that you are at risk or should stay home for a while longer, we will continue to offer our services at 10:00 am each Sunday on Facebook and on the Radio at 104.9.
- Ushers will be at the doors to greet you and direct you to your seat. **NOTE:** When you are directed to your seat, it may not be your normal pew/chair. Please be patient as we are trying to social distance everyone. We ask that families who are sitting together please arrive together.
- At the end of the service, ushers will direct everyone out by row.
- Masks are recommended and will be available. As you enter, temperature checks are recommended but not required.
- Hand sanitizer is located throughout the church.
- Offering plates will be at each entrance.
- Small groups (Sunday School) are welcome to meet at the church anytime other than during worship services using the above precautions. To reserve a room contact the church office.

Our Leadership Committee will disinfect the Fellowship Hall between services for your safety.

Phase Two: TBD
Children/Youth in-person activities
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Phase Three: TBD
Friendship Club
Chancel Choir

Again, thank you for your patience during this time.

SNO-CONE DAY

The Kona Ice Truck will be at the church on Thursday, July 2nd from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Make plans to drive through, get a sno-cone, and meet our new preacher and his wife, Bill and Debbie Elwell. The staff will take your order and deliver to your car.

YOUTH MINISTRY **Motion Student Conference 2020** **July 23rd – 25th** **All Together**

The Motion Student Conference will be a virtual event this year. We plan to come together in the Fellowship Hall for this impactful weekend. We will virtually join thousands of other students all over the country. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more exciting details coming soon.

We will make summer plans for meeting and events when appropriate.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Virtual Vacation Bible School **July 28th – 30th**



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway VBS! On this fun-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Since this is a virtual three-day VBS, supplies for each day will be packed and available for pick up at the church prior to the beginning of VBS. Each participant's box will include all of the supplies for each day of Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Sing & Play Express Music, and Chew Chew Snacks. Join us from home each day on the Children's Facebook page at 1:00 pm. Each day should last less than two hours. Please register at vbspro.event/p/fumcvbs20 by July 13th.

Kids Water Slide Fun Day **July 10-11, 2020**

Please sign your children up for an hour time slot
Contact Kaitlyn with questions



THE WITNESS

The church that love is building.

Rev. Bill Elwell, Pastor



First United Methodist Church
200 East Decatur Street
Demopolis, AL 36732

U. S. Postage Paid
Permit # 81
Demopolis, AL 36732