



United Methodist Church of Ludington

5810 Bryant Road • Ludington, Michigan 49431 • (231) 843-8340

Fax: (231) 843-0070 • Email: office@ludingtonumc.org

Website: www.ludingtonumc.org

Rev. Dennis B. Bromley, *Pastor*

June 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

As I write this update to you, I trust you and your loved ones are safe and as well as possible. And as such, you may or may not know that some of the church people and I have held one meeting to discuss the reopening of our facilities. That meeting was to study the ***Principles and Directions for the Reopening of UMC Facilities in Michigan***. We are currently studying this manuscript and are trying to establish a safe means in which we might reopen the church building. Some of the things that we must consider are the average age of our congregation, whether or not people would be willing to return to worship in person, and if there might not be a more efficient way to be present with those who are not able to be out.

At this time, we are asked not to hold parking lot services because our congregation is at high risk. These guidelines also suggest no choral music in a service. As we are working toward solutions to these and other issues, we are directed to first and foremost consider the well-being of all our congregation. That means I am tasked with not putting anyone in danger of contracting COVID-19. Some of you are most anxious to open the building; I understand that. However, the challenge is more than just opening the door and welcoming people in. Here are some examples: We are asked not to have greeters at the door; we are asked to ensure that the building is clean and sanitized after each usage; we are tasked with ensuring that all people wear masks while inside the building.

These are indeed challenges, yet I know that we can find solutions. I am currently looking for a way to be present on television and to find better ways in which to have a web presence. We are planning to visit our young people through a Zoom conference, and the list can go on and on.

I know that many of you are looking forward to greeting your friends; however, church will not look like it used to look. We will not be able to gather in the lobby or at the door, we will not be able to host meals, share Holy Communion, or even encourage the Passing of Peace. Any greeting of one another must take into consideration proper social distancing.

As the pastor, I know that this will be hard for many of us, as it is going to be hard for me. I am a people pleaser by nature. For my own well-being and for the well-being of all of you, I must hold firm to my decision not to reopen the church building until we have proper protocols in place and it is safe to gather. I am working from home just as many of you are. We are looking for ways to stay in touch: making phone calls; doing zoom meetings; and trying to meet the needs of those who are seeking counseling or those who simply need a listening ear.

I hope and pray that each of you has found a way to reach out to others to let them know that they are an important part of this faith community and of your life. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. If you would like to listen in on the meetings or participate in those meetings, please send me an email (my address is **pastord@ludingtonumc.org**), and I will try to be sure that you get an invitation to these meetings. If you know someone who has the invitations and you would like to participate, simply ask them to forward their invitation to you and we will admit you to this group.

Rest assured we have not forgotten any of you and that we are concerned for all individuals of the Ludington United Methodist Church. I will try to send more details as I learn of them. God bless you and may you have peace.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Dennis Bromley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pastor Dennis Bromley