



JULY CHURCHLETTER

BUILDING A FUTURE WITH HOPE BY REACHING OUT AND GROWING DEEPER:

Dear fellow followers of the Way,
The Spiritual Council of St. John's UCC met June 15th, together with representation from the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Nerstrand UMC. After much discussion, the decision was made to plan our first in person in sanctuary worship on **August 30**. Thank you for your continued patience. The current protocols will be observed as best as we are able. We remain focused on loving God and neighbor. Your prayers are making a difference for growing hope.

The memorial service date for Elaine Miller is **August 22** at St. John's UCC. Please offer continued prayers for this family and the many grieving at this time. Your prayers are invaluable. Pastor Lora

Remember newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month.

Be aware many of the dates and activities are still uncertain. Please watch for updates. Keep praying.

Loving Thoughts and Prayers

Surround:

New Perspective

Joan Schwake

Pleasant View Estates

Ken & Shirley Bauer

Faribault Senior Living

Mildred Tatge

Accura

Kathy Reinhardt

The Homestead of Rochester

Lorry Wille

At Home

Jean Pederson

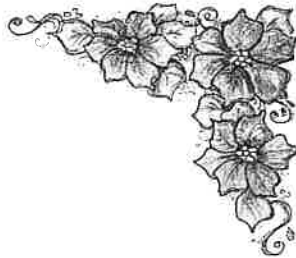
Donovan Mueller

Doris Hildebrandt

Ken & Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Kaye Spike



Joys and Concerns

I would like to "Thank" everyone for the beautiful "Get Well" cards I received after my surgery. What a different time to be in the hospital because of the "Covid virus". No family members or visitors! Thanks again to everyone!

Carol Hafemeyer

Our Christian sympathy to the family of Rita Covert.



Rita, age 90, passed away May 25.

Private family services were held at Boldt Funeral Home May 28 with private burial in the St. John's Cemetery.

Thank you to Becky Tatge for filming and editing our on-line worship. Thanks also to Pastor Lora and Craig for their hard work and flexibility in producing the best possible video. I hope you have seen that we have recently added worship leaders from our congregations as a regular part of the service. Thanks to Kevin Wille for being the first! Would you like to join us by reading scripture or the call to worship in a future service? We are looking for volunteers from both NUMC and SJ. Please let Doug Spike know and we will find a time to get together that works for you.

Nerstrand UMC July 5 Drive thru Ice Cream Social details coming soon.



Just a friendly reminder, I send out prayer chain requests and other announcements via email. If you want to be a part of this valuable ministry, please email me your email to pastorlora@live.com. Thanks so much for your prayers and help in building the kingdom of God here on earth. Pastor Lora

The National Eagle Center Program scheduled for July 22 has been rescheduled for next summer. The new date is Wednesday, July 21, 2021 @ 7:00pm.

Big Woods Race 2020

The Big Woods Race has been cancelled for this year due to the concerns with Covid-19. The safety of our many volunteers and runners was the top priority in this decision. We are thankful for all our wonderful community members who made this event a success in the past. It is our hope we will once again be together in 2021.

The Big Woods Race Committee

Please Remember Us: The Nerstrand United Methodist church would like to remind everyone that even though there are no services, our expenses still carry on. If you want to keep the church going, please remember us. You may mail your giving to Gary Shaske 1000 Cannon Valley Dr # 106, Nfld 55057 or Lloyd Kispert 1281 420TH STREET, Nerstrand, 55053.

Thank you to all who carry on in this time of uncertainty surrounding us all due to the threat of Covid-19 infections.

Vacation Bible School Update:

A total of 26 Vacation Bible School packets were sent out to students to work on at home this year. Bible stories and age-related activities for a 5 day study were prepared with no charge to families. Bible stories included: 1) The Creation Story; 2) Noah builds an Ark and the Great Flood; 3) Moses saved as a baby & then part 2-Moses as God's chosen messenger to deliver the 10 Commandments; 4) Jesus' fist portion of the Sermon on the Mount & the parable of the wise man who built his house on a rock as the foolish man built in the sand; 5) Jesus' miracle of Feeding the 5,000. Each student also received 2 seed packets to plant as a special project. And their mission project was to write & send a note to someone they hadn't been able to see during this pandemic or someone in a nursing or assisted living facility. It, naturally, was not VBS, as usual, but still provided an important need for some bible story study time.



P-P-P Remember 2-2-2, 2nd 2sday of the month

2pm. July 14 is the suggested date, but we will not attempt to coordinate a ZOOM this time. Please keep setting aside time for pausing and praying for our communities and praising God for all that God gives us. If you know of a prayer concern or joy, please let me know and I will add to my prayer journal. Let me know if you'd like others to be aware. Remember, your presence in prayer matters. That is what changes lives. Plan for at least a half hour, no longer than an hour. It makes a difference in the world and in your own life.

Mary's Memo July/August 2020

We all have been limited these last few months of the pandemic of the things we can safely do. One of the things that has been encouraged by the media is getting out in the fresh air and walking. Walking is a whole-body experience that can improve your health both physically and mentally. Wellness pay-offs happen when you feel tired or overwhelmed.



Here are some good reasons and pay-offs for walking.

1. Walking is an energy booster. One study found that adults who walked for 30 minutes five times a week had more energy to get thru the day, felt

healthier, and were more confident than people who did it less often.

2. It can improve your immunity. In a study, those who got 20 minutes or more of aerobic (walking) exercise at least 5 days a week, spent fewer days off when sick and had milder symptoms.
3. You'll snooze better if you hoof it. People who took an a.m. walk fell asleep faster and slept more soundly at night.
4. Walking curbs sugar cravings. Research suggests that walking can curb cravings for sugary snacks. Likely due to the feel good endorphins that physical activity releases.
5. It lowers your risk for chronic diseases. Taking even 3,500 steps a day can lower your diabetes risk. Also, walking 30-60 minutes will drastically lower your risk for heart disease.
6. Its good for your brain. Walking increases the size of brain regions associated with memory and planning. It also helps reduce your risk of a stroke.



With these reminders, it will help you remember the importance of walking for wellness. When feeling tired and overwhelmed these days, lace up your shoes and go for a walk!

St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee

The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the month of July is: Richard & Linda Wille and Al & Sharon Meyer



St. John's UCC Sunday School St. John's Sunday School meets Sundays, 9:30-10:20am. All children ages 4 years through 8th grade are welcome! If you know of a child who would like to attend Sunday School or if you are interested in being a substitute teacher, please contact Carrie Hess (littlehesshouse@gmail.com or 651-775-5594).

CHURCH COUNCIL

St John's UCC Council Meeting Minutes June 8th 2020

June meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by President Doug Spike.

Opening prayer and thoughts by Pastor Lora.

SPRC nothing new to report.

Secretary's report read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved.

Trustees report read and approved.

The Church land line phone has been disconnected.

Bill Yunker to remove two dead ash trees and stumps.

Left over pews to be put up for bid.

Big Woods Run cancelled for 2020.

Council voted to get copy write license for online service music.

Doug Spike will attend the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting via Zoom.

Spiritual Council and representatives from NUMC will meet June 15th at 6:30pm.

July meeting will be on Monday July 13th at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Lord's Prayer

Next SJ council meeting: Monday, July 13 @ 6:30pm via Zoom

St John's Elders:

Doug Spike

Gayle Bauer

Gloria Karl

Do you sing along with the hymns during on-line worship? We have received comments that is difficult to follow along with the music and lyrics as printed on the video. A small number of Chalice Hymnals are available as a "loan" for use during your home worship. Please contact Becky Tatge or Doug Spike if interested.

As a result of re-spacing the seating in St John's sanctuary, **we have four pews available for sale.** If you are interested, a type of silent auction is being held, with bids accepted through Sunday, July 12. Please let Doug Spike know your offer and the quantity you are bidding on.

UCC Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting: The Minnesota Conference UCC held it's annual meeting June 15 via Zoom. Doug Spike represented St John's at the meeting. After a brief worship and inspiring words from Conference Minister Rev. Shari Prestemon, Delegates approved the budget, clergy compensation guidelines, and changes to the bylaws, plus held the annual election. The general meeting had 173 participants representing 60 congregations. While a meeting of this size was not easy to manage and required that participants follow protocol, the Minnesota Conference staff and volunteers did a wonderful job of organizing and conducting the meeting.

To Members and Friends of St. John's UCC

In the midst of the chaos going on, there continues to be "normalcy". Bills still need to be paid. Please keep our Church in your thoughts and prayers also. Checks can be mailed to the church. 19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault MN 55021. The Deacons will be doing our count by the first of the month as usual.

May we all remember – Each and every one of us is loved and cared for by a God so wonderful that God sent his Son that we might know God's love for each of us!

Your Deacons: Gordie Wiegrefe, Sarah Becher, Brian Homeie

2020 SJUCC WOMEN'S GUILD

No meetings in July or August

September 2, 2020 – Meeting at 1:30 PM Lois Bauer and Norma Monroe co-hosting

No meeting in October

November 4, 2020 Meeting at 1:30 PM Judy Meese hosting (program to be announced)

No meeting in December

Wednesday Wear Update: *We are open again!* Our hours are Wed. 1 pm to 6pm and Sat. 9am to noon.

We know that we have to keep people safe. We will ask people to stay in their cars and we will welcome you in. Please wear a mask and follow the 6 ft. distancing. Please don't come if you don't feel well-temp., cough, etc.

For questions, please contact us by phone, e-mails or Facebook. Linda 789-5376 or Marlene 334-2143



Bible Study: "postponed until further notice-watch for details"

Minnesota Walk to Emmaus: Men's Walk 127 will be held January 14 to 17, 2021, with Lay director Ron Bozich. Women's Walk 128 will be held January 21 to 24, 2021, with Lay director Kerry Rausch. Walks will be held at Good Counsel in Mankato, MN. Registration information available online at our website www.mnemmaus.org Help us pray for these Lay Directors as we prepare for the Walks coming in 2021 and navigate successfully and peacefully through the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Second Saturday Quilters

SSQ will not be meeting in July due to the changing COVID-19 restrictions. We will meet up again in September.

Contact Deb Wille at 507-323-4813 or 83159deb@gmail.com SSQ is open to people of all churches and their friends.



Special notices, Save the dates, Surround in Prayer:

Jul 5 Drive Thru Ice Cream Social-N

Jul 19 SPRC mtg 11:30am ZOOM?

August 9 joint worship/ breakfast in Nerstrand City Park **canceled** (-remember to send donations for fire department, as this is a fundraiser for them.)

August 22 Elaine Miller's service at St. John's UCC

Aug 28 UMC MN all clergy session afternoon online

Aug 29 UMC MNDK conference online

August 30 potentially- first in person worship (follow protocols)

Oct 3 Fall Festival-N

Oct 9-10 Reach 2020 Messiah UMC Plymouth

Oct 10 Big Woods Run-**cancelled**

Oct 11 Big Woods Worship 10am-N, followed by meal served by Big Woods 4-H, SPRC mtg

Jul. 21 7pm Eagle Center program-SJ-rescheduled to next year

Aug. 31-Sept. 10, 2021 UMC General Conference

Fare For All 2020 Pick Up Dates: canceled for now

Food Shelf Items always welcome. Each church has a location where you may bring items. Your help by delivering those items to our local food shelves is greatly appreciated. Your gifts witness to our mission focus for anyone coming to our churches! Thanks for your ministry. Together, we help feed our communities. In times of need, our help is needed even more.

Ruth's House thanks the Rice County community for their generous donations, which go to provide basic needs to local families. Donations may be dropped off at Ruth's House in Faribault on Tuesday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Saturday Noon - 2:00 pm. If you would like to offer other items please contact Ruth's House Donations Coordinator, Sandy, at 507-581-1374 or psvarley@gmail.com, before dropping off. Please contact Suzanne for volunteer opportunities! suzzannef.ruthshouse@gmail.com

Faribault Area Hospice Foundation is committed to supporting Faribault Area patients receiving Hospice Care. For more information or to apply for assistance, please contact: www.faribaultareahospicefoundation.org or info@faribaultareahospicefoundation.org or call 1-866-506-7049 Or write Faribault Area Hospice Foundation 200 State Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021

Habitat for Humanity Rice County Habitat for Humanity www.habitatricounty.org 507.323.5167 Questions? Call Jodi, our Volunteer Coordinator, 507-403-7868 Thank you for giving to Rice County Habitat for Humanity!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota serve children ages 5-14 in Dodge, Rice, Steele and Waseca Counties. Our mission: Provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change lives for the better, forever. Contact info: 545 Dunnell Drive, Owatonna 607-451-5922, 322 Central Ave., Faribault, 507-334-0258 202 W Main Str., Kasson, 507-634-4595, Waseca 507-451-5922 www.bbbsofsouthernmn.org megan@bbbsofsouthernmn.org

Remember that our NAMI Family Support group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:00-8:30pm in Room 220 at the Northfield Community Resource Center (1651 Jefferson Parkway). (NAMI is National Alliance for the Mentally Ill)

EarthKeepers Online Training, July 9 and 23, August 6 and 20, 7-8:30 p.m., online. Join EarthKeepers and Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light for a dynamic and experiential leadership development training. Learn how to take action for a more just and sustainable world and be commissioned as a Minnesota EarthKeeper!

Jesusfood is a mission project in the Faribault mall. They have time available to pack meals for children around the world on the 1st Sat of every month starting at 10AM, done before noon. Cost averages about \$60 per person, if you can afford it. But there is not a minimum, so as people can afford, it's what we'll pack. Call for info: 507-469-4357, or email: info@JesusFood.org

Faribault Community School at Jefferson Elementary and Faribault Middle School Monday-Thursdays, 3-4:30pm youth clubs, 4:30-5:30pm, community dinner \$4 at Jefferson Elementary, variety of programs 5:30-6:30pm, contact Maki Love mlove@faribault.k12.mn.us
Volunteer Opportunities at Allina District One Hospital Contact information for Sharon Jacobson: 507-497-3527 Sharon.jacobson@allina.com Mail Route 77000, 200 State Avenue, Faribault, Minnesota 55021

Honoring Choices. So what is advance care planning? This is a process to help you think about, talk about, and ultimately write down your wishes for health care decisions through a health care directive. A health care directive typically includes 2 sections: appointment of an agent (a person who can speak for you when you are unable to participate in medical care decision making) and treatment choices (an opportunity for you to share information regarding your medical care goals, including consideration for when to start or stop medical care/interventions). Our program assists individuals with identification of their health care goals and wishes about what is important to them when faced with a medical crisis or end-of-life care planning. We can also facilitate conversations between individuals and health care agents. A health care directive is only used when an individual is unable to participate in their medical care decision making due to either a short-term or long-term health event. This is a living document meaning that it can and likely should change throughout an individual's life span.

I and a group of trained volunteer facilitators are available to assist individuals directly through facilitated conversations to complete their health care directives. We also are actively involved in community events including employee health fairs and presentations to local organizations. I welcome any opportunity to share information about this very important health care topic. There is no cost for this service.

To request our involvement:

Email: honoringchoices@allina.com

Phone: 507-977-2330 - You may receive my voice mail as I am out of the office quite a bit. Please leave a message

To obtain an Honoring Choices Health Care Directive:

<https://www.honoringchoices.org/health-care-directives/english-directives/22-hcd-long-form-fillable/file>

Contact our office if you would like a health care directive mailed to you.

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for program outreach. Pat Heydon

Follow us on Facebook: [@honoringchoicesFaribaultOwatonna](https://www.facebook.com/honoringchoicesFaribaultOwatonna)

Upcoming scriptures, read and reflect to prepare for worship: Jul 5 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost How do we

observe Independence Day in worship? With thanksgiving. It is always appropriate to give God thanks for the blessings we too often take for granted. Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45: 10-17, Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 COLORS Green Jul 12 6th Sunday After Pentecost Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, Colors: Green July 19 7th Sunday After Pentecost Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Colors; Green Jul 26 8th Sunday After Pentecost Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Colors; Green



Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Faith-based communities, places of worship, weddings, and funerals Beginning May 27, 2020 Before hosting groups over 10 people, faith-based communities, places of worship, funeral homes, and other venues that offer gathering space for



wedding, funerals, and planned services such as worship, rituals, prayer meetings, scripture studies, must develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that addresses the following components. The Plan must be evaluated, monitored, executed, and updated under the supervision of a designated Plan Administrator within your organization or leadership structure (including a "church" as that term is used in the Internal Revenue Code). The Plan must be posted on site in an easily accessible location that will allow for the Plan to be readily reviewed by all leadership, staff, and volunteers. Please note: Occupancy must be reduced to accommodate for the required social distancing of at least six feet between people who do not live in the same household. In indoor settings, occupancy must not exceed 25% of total occupancy, with a maximum of 250 people in a single self-contained space. In outdoor settings, gatherings must not exceed 250 people. Please note: This guidance is limited to weddings,

funerals, and faith-based services as described above and does not apply to related celebrations or social gatherings. Such social gatherings continue to be limited to 10 people. The consumption of food and beverages beyond what is necessary for a planned service or ritual is also prohibited. This includes gatherings after services to share food, drink and community both indoors and outdoors. Congregants should be encouraged to exit directly after services and return to their cars or other mode of transportation. Faith Leaders, Staff, and Volunteers, including those responsible for using the facility for support groups or other activities, are all considered "Staff" in this document. Large gatherings continue to present a risk for increasing the spread of COVID-19. All faith communities are encouraged to provide remote services and have the right to choose not to open or host large gatherings. **STAFF PROTECTIONS AND PROTOCOLS** Ensure Sick Staff Stay Home 1. Establish health screening protocols for staff at the start of each shift (e.g. health screening survey, taking temperature). 2. Staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be sent home immediately. If they cannot be sent home immediately, isolate them in a closed room until they can be sent home. Staff who have been in close contact with a household member with COVID should not be at work until their quarantine period is finished. • Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. 3. Establish communication protocols and steps to take when staff have been exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace. 4. Designate an individual to maintain communication with and gather information from staff who may be ill, as to ensure the privacy of staff is maintained. 5. Establish staff sickness reporting protocols. 6. Establish protocols for staff to return to work and follow MDH Guidance. 7. Establish a process to identify contact between infected staff and other staff who may have been exposed. 8. Evaluate and adjust sick leave policies to reflect the need for isolation and incentivize staff who are sick to stay home. 9. Strongly urge all "at risk" staff and members of vulnerable populations to stay home and participate in services remotely. Vulnerable staff should be encouraged to self-identify, and employers should avoid making unnecessary medical inquiries. Employers should urge such workers to stay home whenever possible and take particular care to reduce these workers' risk of exposure. 10. Clearly communicate sick leave policies to all staff. **Social Distancing – Staff Must Be At Least Six-Foot Apart** 1. Maximize remote-working - Staff who are able to work from home must work from home. 2. Stagger shifts and breaks; Extend work-hours and implement flexible scheduling to reduce number of staff in the same place at the same time. 3. Evaluate traffic patterns and "choke points" to reduce crowding at entrances, in hallways, elevators, waiting areas, break areas, common areas, etc. 4. Limit staff meetings to 10 people or less. 5. Limit the number of people in restrooms at the same time. 6. Ensure physical distancing in work areas, including at workstations, break rooms, shared projects requiring people to work together to adapt the physical

space, event preparation, etc. 7. Maintain at least a 6-foot distance for any worker interaction. 8. Increase physical space between staff and the public to at least 6 feet whenever interacting. 3 Last updated: 05/23/20 – 12:00pm Staff Hygiene and Source Controls 1. Ensure staff regularly wash their hands. Ensure handwashing and/or hand-sanitizer facilities are readily available and appropriately stocked. 2. Provide recommended protective supplies, such as non-medical cloth face coverings, gloves, disinfectant, shields, etc., appropriate to the task of the staff. 3. Post “hand-washing” and “cover your cough” signs. 4. Staff should wear face masks when working in shared office space or when working on projects with others for extended periods of time. 5. Doors to multi-stall restrooms should be able to be opened and closed without touching the handles, opening-devices, or powered door-operators with the hand, whenever possible. If the door cannot be opened without touching the handle or door-operator, place trash-receptacle by the door to ensure a paper towel can be readily disposed of when operating the door. The location and positioning of waste-receptacles should not interfere with Life Safety requirements (e.g. egress, evacuation, emergency equipment) or any reasonable accommodations provided under the Americans with Disabilities Act. 6. Community drinking stations and water-fountains should not be available/used. Touchless waterfilling stations may still be provided 7. Food should not be shared communally. 8. Provide tissues for proper cough/sneeze etiquette and no-touch disposal bins. BUILDING AND VENTILATION PROTOCOLS General Building Conditions: Buildings must be assessed to determine the status and capacities of the utility-systems within the building (e.g. ventilation, water-supply, sewer, gas), as well as potential issues associated with vermin, molds, and mildew, prior to putting the building into an operational status. 1. Follow established protocols for starting mechanical, electrical, plumbing, life-safety, and other systems after non-use. 2. Assess the building for indications of pest and vermin infestation, and consult a pest-control professional as appropriate. 3. See CDC’s Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation. 4. Windows, fans, and air conditioning: CDC recommends working with facility management to determine how often to change air filters and to improve ventilation and exchanges for air from outside to the extent possible. Day-To-Day Operations: Once systems are in a safe operational status, ensure the following practices and protocols are maintained: 1. Continuously maximize fresh-air into the work and communal spaces. Eliminate air recirculation. 2. Minimize air-flow from blowing across people. 3. If your facility has air conditioning: 4. Supplement ventilation-system with the use of portable HEPA filter units whenever possible. 5. Keep systems running longer hours (24/7 if possible) to enhance the ability to filter contaminants out of the air. 6. If you have the capacity to do so, the following is also recommended: 7. Maintain relative humidity levels of RH 40-60% 8. Add a flush cycle to the controls of the HVAC system, and run HVAC systems for 2-hours before and after occupancy if your system allows for this. 9. Check and rebalance the HVAC

system to provide negative air-pressure whenever possible. 10. Consult an HVAC professional or the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and AirConditioning Engineers to ensure proper ventilation is provided, and ventilation-systems are properly maintained. See ASHRAE’s COVID-19 Preparedness Resources DROP-OFF, PICK-UP, AND DELIVERY PRACTICES AND PROTOCOL 1. Receive deliveries via a contactless method whenever you can. 2. Provide for contactless deliveries that promote delivery at a doorstep, where persons maintain a distance at least 6-feet away while verifying receipt of the delivery between the staff and the delivery person. Whenever possible, attempt to do everything electronically (e.g. app, phone) to eliminate the need for close contact between staff and delivery personnel. 3. Staff must maintain a distance 6-feet or greater from others during interactions while receiving or exchanging deliveries. 4. Staff must minimize the unnecessary exchanging or sharing of scanners, pens, or other tools with delivery personnel. WORK AND GATHERING SPACE CLEANING AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS 1. Establish a documented sanitation schedule and checklist, identifying surfaces/equipment to be sanitized, the agent to be used, and the frequency at which sanitation occurs. 2. Routinely clean and disinfect all areas, such as offices, restrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment, instruments, tools, controls, etc. 3. Electronic devices (e.g. light-switches, circuit-breakers) should not be sanitized with a liquid agent. Consider covering switches/devices with a poly-covering that allows the user to manipulate the device without touching the switch, and hangout the poly-covering frequently. Electronic devices must be sanitized only when disconnected from the power-source, and sanitized in accordance with the listing/labeling requirements. 4. Personal equipment, items used in rituals or services, microphones, and phones should not be shared or, if shared, should be disinfected after each use. 5. Frequently clean all high-touch items, such as doorknobs, countertops, barriers, railings, handles, ends of pews, tops of chairs, and other surfaces. 6. Implement immediate cleaning and disinfecting of the work and gathering space if a staff, member, or visitor becomes ill with COVID-19. 7. Select appropriate and ensure the needed supply of disinfectants – consider effectiveness and safety. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) List N has identified a list of products that meet EPA’s criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. See EPA’s List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 8. Review product labels and Safety Data Sheets, follow manufacturer specifications, and use required personal protective equipment for the product. 9. Hymnals and religious texts should be removed as they cannot be effectively cleaned. Consider the following options: • Use projectors to guide participants through the order, prayers, and texts of the service. • Distribute paper copies in a way that minimizes contact by anyone but the service participant, and do not reuse. • Provide electronic copies of text used for services to participants to access on their personal devices prior to the service. COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING PRACTICES AND PROTOCOL 1. All leadership and staff must be trained regarding COVID-19 exposure, as well as applicable

policies, procedures, practices, and protocols. 2. Organizations and facilities must ensure the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is posted in easily accessible locations and is shared with and reviewed by all staff. 3. Organizations and facilities must ensure the necessary or required rules and practices are communicated to members and renters or other users of their space (e.g. community groups, support groups, etc.), and adequately enforce their provisions. 4. Staff must ensure they comply with and follow established rules and practices. 5. Communication to educate members and participants about the steps being taken for their protection to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is encouraged. Protective measures should be communicated to members and participants prior to, and at the start of, the event or gathering to both educate and inform them of their role in protecting themselves and others. **WHAT ORGANIZATIONS AND FACILITIES CAN DO TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE TRANSMISSION** 1. Participants should conduct a self-check and stay home if they have symptoms of COVID-19. • Symptoms can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. 2. Facilities and organizations should ask visitors and participants to review a screening survey addressing close contacts with confirmed cases and quarantined cases, and recent out of 6 Last updated: 05/23/20 – 12:00pm continent travel. The questions should be the same as those completed by staff, and visitors and participants should be advised to stay home if they have had a significant exposure. MDH's Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist: 3. Persons who may be at higher risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged to stay home. 4. Post signage and develop messaging that if members or visitors do not feel well or have any symptoms compatible with COVID-19, they should stay home. 5. People should also stay home if they have a household member experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19. 6. If a participant begins to feel unwell while in the facility, they should leave immediately and isolate themselves at home. See CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), May 2020 7. Encourage participants to regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands. 8. Limit the equipment, products, or items touched by participants while in the building. 9. Strongly encourage all participants to wear a face covering or mask when they are able. Have extra masks available for people who do not arrive with one. Cloth face coverings are NOT a substitute for maintaining a physical distance of 6-feet from other people. Refer to CDC guidance on cloth face coverings 10. Singing is a higher-risk activity as it more forcefully expels respiratory droplets than speaking. And the act of singing may contribute to transmission of COVID-19, possibly through emission of aerosols. Congregations should refrain from singing. Congregations are strongly encouraged to offer pre-recorded music or only one cantor singing at a distance of at least 12 feet from anyone else during the service, while wearing a face mask. 11. Processionals and recessionals should only be done in a manner that maintains at least 6 feet of distance

between people from different households. 12. Adapt your practices during planned services, weddings and funerals to avoid physical contact or passing objects between individuals (e.g. greetings, collection baskets, sharing of ceremonial objects). 13. Communion for some faiths is a critical part of their ritual. Faith communities that cannot make communion a touch-free encounter should follow these guidelines: • Communion should be distributed hand-to-hand, not hand-to-mouth. • Both the distributor and the receiver of communion should wear face coverings. • 6 feet of distance (two arm's length) distance should be maintained between the communion distributor and the receiver. This would require both parties extending their arms as comfortably as possible. • The distributor of communion should use hand sanitizer prior to initiation, and repeated after touching their face, coughing, or sneezing, or significant touching of another person or object in the process of distributing communion. • Hand sanitizer should be used before touching a mask to take it down for communion, and after touching a mask to put it back on. Note: hand sanitizer must be applied thoroughly and allowed to dry to be effective. 14. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet (2 meters) from people not in the same household at all times. This includes establishing this distance with people next to you and in front and behind you. Remove or block off seating, clearly mark entrances and exits and space within the facility to ensure adequate spacing of participants. 15. Consider implementing usher directed entering and exiting of the seating area to maintain proper social distancing. **OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS** As organizations and facilities consider further opening of gathering spaces worship, rituals, prayer meetings, scripture studies, weddings, or funerals, it is important to consider the unique characteristics of your community members and your shared spaces. 1. Some of your staff and members may be at higher risk for COVID-19; these persons are strongly urged to stay at home and not participate in any group gatherings involving people outside of their immediate household. 2. Continue virtual services, phone contact, and other outreach to vulnerable community members, even as other members begin to engage in person. Some of your members may not feel comfortable resuming in-person contact for a longer period of time. It is important to respect their decisions while continuing to remain connected in other ways. 3. Remember that as restrictions are lifted on a state-wide level, your community has the choice to continue the practices put in place during the stay-at-home orders and delay in-person gatherings. Faith communities need to take steps to ensure that members who choose not to attend in-person services will not experience negative consequences from those communities because of their decision. 4. These Requirements are being implemented universally across sectors with similar gathering spaces for various sectors of our communities. Consideration is given to space size, flow of movement, duration of time in designated shared space, and the nature of the COVID-19 virus to easily spread in large group gatherings no matter how much planned social distancing is implemented. **OCCUPANCY LIMITS** 1. Facilities must reduce occupancy to accommodate for the required

social distancing of at least six feet between people who do not live in the same household. 2. In indoor settings, occupancy must not exceed 25% of total occupancy, with a maximum of 250 people in a single self-contained space. Outdoors gatherings must not exceed 250 people. 3. Large gatherings should utilize different entrances, staggered arrival and departure times, and other mechanisms to avoid congestion at entry and exit points. 4. This includes leadership, staff, and participants for all planned services, weddings and funerals. 5. These limits may change as the data indicates declining number of cases and deaths, or surges in those numbers over time. 6. For drive-in services, see:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/guidefaithpark.pdf> ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS AND PROTOCOL FOR MANAGING OCCUPANCY

1. Publicize your protocols so that current and potential members or visitors are aware of expectations. 2. Advise members and visitors of the added COVID-19 precautions that will be taken prior to arrival at the site. Use websites, social media, pre-appointment phone calls and other outlets to educate members on the steps being taken for their protection and the protection of workers. 3. Consider sending an email or text of a screening survey prior to a planned service, wedding or funeral and request that anyone with symptoms stay home. 4. Post signage at the entrances and exits outlining established protocols. 5. Limit the number of persons trying to enter the building at the same time. Consider planning ways to ask participants to arrive at staggered times (e.g. alphabetically or by electronic sign-up). 6. Determine how your community will address arrivals after you have reached maximum capacity. Pre-plan as much as possible to avoid this situation and prepare a plan for if it occurs. 7. Train staff how to address a situation where a participant in a service or event appears to be sick or symptomatic and assist them in leaving. 8. Evaluate all points in the services that previously involved a face-to-face or interaction closer than six feet to determine how they can be done in an alternative way. 9. Provide hand sanitizer and tissues at the entrance, in each seating area section, and other prominent locations. 10. Entrances, exits, restrooms and other areas of congestion should be marked to provide for social distancing of at least six feet, including floor markers for distance, lane lines and signage in adjacent areas where people may be waiting for access. 11. Space, configuration and flow of the space should be evaluated to allow for physical distancing of six feet by every household at all times. • Only members of the same household can sit together and should maintain a distance of at least six feet from other households or individuals. • Participants from separate households should not interact from closer than six feet before, after, or during planned services, weddings or funerals. 12. In-person services and ceremonies should not resume if adequate protective measures cannot be implemented.



**Service Schedule for 2020:
In-Person Services are cancelled until at
least August 30 due to the Covid-19 virus.**

**9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053
E-mail: stjohnsuccnumc@live.com
Phone: 507.332.4089



**10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021
E-mail: stjohnsuccnumc@live.com Phone: 5077895766
Website: <https://stjohnsunitdchurchofchrist.info>



Lora Sturm, Pastor All the People, Ministers Phone:
507.330.0025 E-mail: pastorlora@live.com
Sabbath on Friday

