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The Deepest Shalom: At Home With God

Sunday, October 11, 2020 || 19th Sunday After Pentecost || Pastor Christy Wright

*We invite you to light a candle at 9:30 AM and join us in prayer, IN-PERSON at Charmil Drive,
ONLINE or over the PHONE this week*

*Audio worship, including music, prayers, and the sermon is available at
<https://georgewhitefieldumc.weebly.com/worship-services>*

Audio worship is also available at (978) 990-5000, access code 719365#. Just dial in, enter the access code on your keypad, and you will hear the service begin with music.

Opening Reflection by LR Knost

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.

Scripture Reading

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Sermon

Earlier this week, I had an appointment about an hour away, and I knew that it would take up most of my morning. Rather than try to ignore my grumbling stomach all the way home, I decided to stop for lunch at one of my favorite fast food places where I rarely get a chance to eat: Chick-Fil-A. Their chicken sandwiches are legendary, and their famous sauce is phenomenal - I knew I had to have it. Because we live in the age of Covid, I went through the drive-thru and pulled into an empty parking space to eat. As I was relishing in my experience, I listened to a radio show about *shalom*, the ancient Jewish understanding of peace. I was hoping to get some ideas for this sermon, and I was enjoying my peaceful lunch in a warm car, heated by the early autumn sun, window open slightly to let a light breeze in. It was a really nice moment, and as I leaned back in my seat, I took a mental note of the peace I was experiencing, in this almost mundane and ordinary way, so I could share it with you today.

But I guess God had something else planned. Suddenly, a woman approached my car; she was carrying a grocery bag of clothing and wasn't wearing a mask. She asked through the window if she could borrow my phone. She said she was wondering where her friend was, who was supposed to give her a ride home; she had been waiting for a while. I was probably visibly hesitant, because at this point, her eyes started to well up as she said that I could just dial the number and keep it on speakerphone, that she didn't even need to hold my phone. My heart broke, and I realized she was being honest. I dialed the number and turned up the volume. When he picked up and she started speaking, it was clear the person who was supposed to pick her up wanted nothing to do with her. After a few intense moments of his cursing and her pleading, he hung up, and she mumbled a quick "thank you" to me before dashing away from my car and collapsing on the sidewalk.

I still had half a chicken sandwich in the seat next to me, and my moment of peace had been upended into a real life crisis. I was frozen. I didn't know how to help. I thought that maybe I could buy her lunch, but that wouldn't really offer a long-term solution for her current situation. I could give her a ride home in my car, but I knew that wouldn't be safe,

regardless of how honest I felt she was being. I must have sat for about five minutes, and I could see her out of the corner of my eye. I could tell she was sobbing, but she hurriedly wiped away the tears and kept her face to the ground so others wouldn't see her. I, too, was avoiding her gaze.

I continued to rack my brain for some way to help her that would both be beneficial and safe for both of us. Then it struck me: technology has a way of working to our advantage. I thumbed through my phone and found a ride hailing application, which works like a cab company, except that all of the booking and payment happens online. It even has a GPS tracker, so you can see the vehicle as it approaches you and get ready to be picked up. I got out of my car, phone in hand along with an extra mask, knowing that the driver would probably require it. I asked if I could get a ride for her - all I needed was an address. She immediately perked up, and said, "Yes, please. I just want to go home." I set up the ride for her and handed her the handmade mask my mom had made for me, assuring her that it had just been washed and was ready to go. Her face lit up; she said that she hadn't been able to get into any public restrooms because masks were required. Now she would have a durable one that would last.

While we waited for the car, she went inside to wash her face, and when she came back outside, she was glowing, like she was ready to take on the world. As she got into the car, she rolled down the window and thanked me again. I waved as they pulled out of the parking lot, and I leaned against my car, watching the cab's journey through the GPS tracker until she made it home, safe and sound.

Most of us have probably never experienced the heartbreak of being left behind in a parking lot, having to fend for ourselves with no way home, let alone in the middle of a pandemic. But we may have experienced the comfort of just being able to *go home*, whether it's settling into our own beds after a week or two of travel, or if it's coming home to loved ones after an extended stay at the hospital. The peace we feel to be finally home is one that envelops all of our senses: we can feel it in our bodies, we smell it in the Sunday dinners in the oven, we hear it in our beloved's laughter, we see it in our freshly made bed and folded laundry, we taste it in the meals we share. To be home is to truly experience *shalom*, which is more than just peace of mind: it is the fullness of wellness, and it is the wholeness of health. It is the merging of mind, body, and spirit into deep peace, peace that surpasses all understanding as we find our home in God.

This morning's scripture readings tell of this peace: a *shalom* within the green pastures and abundance of life, and a *shalom* in the darkest moments of history. We are comforted through God's blessings of meeting us at the table, where even there we are reconciled with our enemies and peace can be found in the most dire of situations. It is here where we find abundance, where our cup overflows, where we find everything we need all the days of our lives.

And so we rejoice, even in the midst of the uncertain and unknown. We rejoice, even when we feel beaten down by life's waves and overwhelmed by the storms that swirl overhead. We rejoice, even when all signs point to the opposite reality. Because it is here where we find ourselves at home with God, focusing on the goodness and sacredness of life, defying all common sense that tells us to believe in a different outcome. Everything about God's love is irrational, and everything about God's *shalom* doesn't make sense. And yet, here it is. God's love and grace creates a home for us in the midst of the most loveless and graceless moments. And this love and grace is something we carry with us throughout our lives. When we recognize just how big that love and grace is, we are suddenly able to take on the world, for we know that God is with us. No matter where we find ourselves, our home and deepest *shalom* is found in God.

Thanks be to God that we are always found in the arms of the Divine, at home in love and grace. Thanks be to God for those who guide us home, our mentors and loved ones who show up for us in the most painful of situations. And thanks be to God for the peace, and the deepest *shalom*, that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

Hymn of Meditation - It is Well With My Soul // Blessing When the World is Ending by Jan Richardson

// Look, the world is always ending somewhere. Somewhere the sun has come crashing down. Somewhere it has gone completely dark. Somewhere it has ended with the gun, the fist, the knife. // Somewhere it has ended with the utter quiet that follows the news from the phone, the television, the hospital room. Somewhere it has ended with a tenderness that will break your heart. // But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose. It has not come to cause despair. It is simply here because there is nothing a blessing is better suited for than an ending, nothing that cries out more for a blessing than when a world is falling apart. // This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false comfort. It will not talk to you about one door opening when another closes. // It will simply sit itself beside you among the shards and gently turn your face toward the direction from which the light will come, gathering itself about you as the world begins again. //

In Our Prayers. Thanksgiving for: medical professionals and researchers. Holding in our hearts: all those affected by the Coronavirus and the health of our world, all those who are experiencing unemployment, all those who face racial injustice and violence and cannot breathe under the weight of oppression, all those experiencing illness or health problems (Al (and family as they care for him), Barbara F., Dan D. (Vicki's husband), Kelly R., Lindsey S., the Reim family), all those who are in nursing homes or extended care facilities (Betty, Claire, Dell, Evelyn, Priscilla), all those who are caring for others (Carrie G., Crystal, Rachel), the United Methodist Church. *Note that this list will renew each month.*

And now, may the peace of the Lord Christ go with you wherever God may send you; may God guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm; may God bring you home rejoicing at the wonders God has shown you; may God bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.¹

Community Announcements

- **CHANGE IN TIME!!! In response to our informal poll, we will be moving our outdoor worship time to 9:30 AM. WE ARE MEETING IN PERSON THIS WEEK, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11th. 2nd and 4th Sunday Services to Continue at 9:30 AM through the end of October.** Many thanks to you all for striving to follow our guidelines when we last met! We'd just like to share a few reminders:
 - Remember to wear a mask.
 - If you are unable to wear a mask or would prefer not to, please **park your vehicle around the horseshoe and stay in your car for the duration of the service.** Once again, this is for the safety and sake of folks whose immune systems might be compromised or otherwise may be at higher risk for contracting the virus.
 - Please remember to physically distance from others.
 - Please bring your own chairs and **place them where there is a flag, and please do not move the flags.** These spaces have been measured out according to Massachusetts and health board guidelines. Thank you!
 - **Outdoor services will continue on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month through at least October.** In case of bad weather, the service will be cancelled by 4 PM on the Saturday before the service and outdoor worship would resume on the next scheduled day (2nd and 4th Sundays only).
 - Be on the lookout for updates from the Reopening Advisory Board soon!
 - As always, please feel free to reach out to any of the members of the Board with questions or concerns
- **TODAY AFTER CHURCH: TRUSTEES & REOPENING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** If you are on either of these committees, we will be meeting briefly immediately following today's service for an update on square footage and how we'd like to proceed. Thank you!
- **Nominations Committee.** We understand that in today's world, it can be difficult to make commitments to service, especially when everything seems so uncertain. But nonetheless, we are so grateful for our community and the gifts within. We therefore would ask your prayerful consideration for the following openings in our leadership positions; may the Spirit of God move throughout our lives and guide us toward where we are called to serve. Open positions include Financial Secretary (receiving weekly offerings, depositing them at the bank, and keeping track of income sources), Recording Secretary (attending Ad Council meetings once a month and Annual Church Conference and taking notes), and a few open positions on SPRC (supervisory committee for staff), Trustees (working as a team to maintain our property), Nominations (once-a-year gathering to assess congregational gifts and nominate leaders), and Worship (working closely with the Pastor to design services and/or offer music). If any of these openings draw you in, or if you have any specific questions about any of the positions, please reach out to Pastor Christy. Thank you!
- **AN UPDATE FROM OUR REOPENING ADVISORY BOARD AND TRUSTEES (September 27, 2020).** Enclosed you will find a copy of the waiver everyone will need to sign before entering the building each time we meet (found printed after announcements) and a checklist for each volunteer group (separate page). If any of the roles from that list interest you, please reach out to Pastor Christy or anyone on the Reopening Advisory Board by **Sunday, October 18th** so we can assess our volunteer list. Thank you!
- **NEW BIBLE STUDY.** During this election season, it can be difficult to have conversations with folks who hold differing views. Sometimes the conflict can make us feel like we have to avoid others, or perhaps even our loved ones who believe differently from ourselves. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing in a new bible study called *Know God and Make God Known*. We will be learning about Jesus' own conflict transformation techniques and how we are called to use his methods in our own lives. Guided by Melody Stanford Martin's book, *Brave Talk*, we will explore how to approach impasse with love and grace. This four week study will begin on **Wednesday, October 14th at 4 PM** and continue for four weeks, concluding the Wednesday after Election Day. We will be meeting using FreeConferenceCall.com, which has a call-in feature and video conferencing over the internet. The

¹ Book of Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals

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call-in number is our regular phonenumber, (978) 990-5000, access code 719365#. If you are interested in joining by video over the internet, let Pastor Christy know and she will send you a link.

- **Upcoming Meetings. Ad Council** will meet by conference call on Wednesday, October 14th at 10 AM using our phonenumber (978) 990-5000, access code 719365#.
- **Annual Church Conference Dates and Times Announced.** Our Annual Church Conference will take place by conference call on **Friday, November 6th at 7 PM.** *A reminder that all folks in leadership positions should plan to attend.* Details on how to dial in will be released shortly. **SPRC** will meet with our District Superintendent on **Saturday, November 7th at 3:15 PM,** also by phone Please mark these important dates on your calendar!
- **Pastor Christy's Office Hours.** A reminder that Pastor Christy is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 AM to 4 PM, Thursdays from 8 AM to 12 noon, and Sundays when we are gathering in-person from 8 AM to 10 AM. If you cannot reach her, and it is an emergency, please leave a message and she will get back to you asap.
- **Offerings** are still being encouraged during this time. Please consider mailing your offering to our church PO Box, so that we are able to continue in ministry through Christ for the transformation of the world. Offerings can be mailed to: George Whitefield United Methodist Church, PO Box 576, West Brookfield, MA 01585
- **Heifer Project - ONGOING.** Thank you for supporting this mission effort during Lent! Due to the nature of this fundraiser, being one that collects change, we invite you to continue collecting change for this mission project until we are able to return to regular church services. To date, we have received \$178.10. As we continue our mission, when we get back together, we'll decide on animals/projects.

Sonshine Phone Calls and Cards List

If you know of anyone who could be added to our Sonshine list, let Pastor Christy know.

Evelyn Armitage
(508) 867-0619
47 E Main St.
West Brookfield, MA 01585

Betty Hubbard
47 E Main St.
West Brookfield, MA 01585

Priscilla Toppin
47 E Main St.
West Brookfield, MA 01585

Claire Wirf
(508) 791-8131
(mornings)
383 Mill Street
Worcester, MA 01602

Barbara Frazier
88 Masonic Home Rd.
Charlton, MA 01507

Millie Silverberg
2473 Eastway Drive
Lexington, KY 40503

**Covid-19 Church Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. Waiver for Indoor Worship
(Text is Provided For Your Review; Separate Actual Waiver Will Be Provided the Day of Our Gatherings)**

November 8, 2020
Dear Attendee:

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people. We are doing everything we can to be compliant with all regulations and ensure your safety. We have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but we cannot guarantee that you or family members will not become infected with COVID-19. By participating in programs, services, and activities of George Whitefield United Methodist Church, you agree to the following: On behalf of yourself and your children, you hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless George Whitefield United Methodist Church, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to your participation in our programs, services or activities. You understand and agree that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of this organization, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any such program, service, or activity.

Attendee Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Names of Minor Family Members (if any):

A Companion Guide

The Upper Room Daily Devotionals

Monday, October 12th through Saturday, October 17th || Written by Pastor Christy Wright

We invite you to light a candle at 9:30 AM daily and join us in prayer and devotion

If you do not have a copy of the newest Upper Room Daily Devotionals, let Pastor Christy know & she will send you one.

Monday, October 12th, 2020

Read Matthew 11:1-11

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

One day last week, I had quite an adventure with my other job driving a large refrigerated truck, picking up excess food and dropping it off at shelters and food pantries. My highly experienced coworker had to stay home with his son who was sick, so I had to run the route by myself. It wasn't long before I fell behind. I missed a pick-up window at a grocery store, and I was running late in meeting up with volunteers who would help unload the truck at each stop. I called my manager in a panic, but he told me to relax - he offered to call all of the stops ahead of me and explain that I was running late. That was all; no need to worry. He was preparing the way for me so I'd have a smoother day. In much the same way, John the Baptist was a messenger that prepared people for Jesus' radical message of love, grace, and healing. In today's scripture, we hear of the blessings that are coming through Jesus' ministry and the signs of life that were brought forth through John's ministry. Even today, Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit will be our own Preparer, One who goes before us to help us in our daily lives. Thanks be to God that our paths are made smooth before God through Jesus Christ.

Let Us Pray Together

God our Guidance, You prepare the way before us so that we might witness Your love, grace, and healing. You show us the signs of life-giving ministry even in the midst of the unknown. Help us to remember that You are always present through the gift of the Holy Spirit, and that we are never alone in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020

Read Habakkuk 1:1-5

“Look at the nations, and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told.”

This morning's scripture reading starts off dark, but the last verse tells of a light that is rising in the darkness. Today, even as we witness the country's vicious debate over our nation's future, there are many positive and life-giving ministries that are rising to the occasion. Though many nonprofit organizations are seeing a rise in the needs their clients are experiencing, these same nonprofits are receiving more grants and funds through generous gifts that allow them to do greater work with greater impact. These organizations range from hunger relief nonprofits to healthcare systems to organizations who work to provide housing for those experiencing homelessness. This work has never been so important, and for many organizations, the gifts have never been so big! This is good news, for greater funding leads to more systemic change rather than smaller gifts, which sometimes simply patch a societal problem. In today's world, it can be easy to watch the news and start to become jaded with everything happening; but just under the surface, amazing things are happening. So, take a look: be astonished and astounded. Change is happening, & we have an opportunity to be part of it!

Let Us Pray Together

God of goodness and grace, even in the midst of uncertainty and strife, You meet us with unparalleled hope. Your light rises in the darkness, and we know that You are at work, even when we don't see it. Help us to remember that You are near, and You offer peace, so that we might offer that same peace to all whom we encounter through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Wednesday, October 14th, 2020

Read Matthew 13:18-23

“The seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.”

If you've read this parable multiple times throughout your life, maybe you'll remember categorizing yourself as one type of soil one year, then several years later realize you were relating to a different garden. Even though it's tempting to stand firm as one type of soil, the truth is that we're usually all different types of soil throughout our journey. Sometimes it might be difficult for us to understand where God is in a painful situation, and so we often feel that the seed of teaching has been stolen from us in those moments. At other times, we may accept a new path in life with joy and gratitude, only to become discouraged when the "honeymoon phase" is over. Regardless, we can take hope in knowing that the seed of Jesus' love is always being sown in our lives, and the sunshine and rain that nourishes it is endless.

Let Us Pray Together

God our Grounding, You root us in faith to know that Your love has no end. You provide all we need to produce fruit for Your kingdom's goals. Remind us that life's seasons come and go, and while we sometimes might feel unproductive and stagnant, You are there providing us with all we need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday, October 15th, 2020**Read Luke 10:25-37****“Who is my neighbor?”**

Mister Rogers, from the television show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, once remembered his childhood and an important lesson his mother taught him: “When I was a boy and would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” In today’s world, it can be easy to see the scary things in life and assume the worst. But we are called to look a little closer, we will see the folks around the world who are rising to the occasion and helping one another out in small *and* big ways. In today’s scripture reading, we hear about a lawyer who asked Jesus how to inherit eternal life. Jesus affirmed the answer: love God and love neighbor. But the lawyer wanted to find a loophole in the system, so he asked who exactly he had to love. Jesus answered in parable form by talking about the Good Samaritan, who stopped to help someone who was injured along the road. They stopped not because they had to fill their “random act of kindness quota” for the day, or because they wanted to win favor with God and earn eternal life, but rather because they were moved by compassion and love for another human. A helping attitude doesn’t come from a place of obligation, but rather a place of compassionate service, moved by the Holy Spirit. So, the question is: who is *your* neighbor? And how is God calling you to be a helper in the days ahead?

Let Us Pray Together

God our Neighbor and Friend, Your great love surrounds us and all whom we encounter. You take care of us, even and especially when we find ourselves on the side of the road, needing love. Teach us to care for others in the same way, for You have called us to love You and love our neighbors in compassionate action, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday, October 16th, 2020**Read Hebrews 11:1-29****“By faith, he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”**

In our daily prayers with God, many of us close with the Lord’s Prayer. There’s one line that has always captivated me: *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*. By praying this line, we are inviting the kingdom of God to break through into today’s world, envisioning and enabling what life would be like if God truly reigned. And what is most inspiring is that we are called to be co-creators with God to bring forth the City of God. What I love about this morning’s scripture passage is that we are invited to dream in faith, just as the faithful saints before us dreamed as well. For we are looking forward to entering into the city, this New Jerusalem, with strong and unbreakable foundations, all of which were crafted by God. When we picture such a reality, we can’t help but invite others to help make this dream come true. How is God calling you today to invest in the kingdom? How might your gifts and talents align with the world’s needs? Because here’s the best part: Heaven is here. Can you see it?

Let Us Pray Together

God of our new city, You have given us a vision of strong foundations and a prosperous life in the City of God. You inspire us to act upon our faith by co-creating a new reality with You. Teach us to lean into this call as we seek to love You and one another in the model of Jesus’ ministry. Amen.

Saturday, October 17th, 2020**Read Psalm 1:1-3****“Blessed is the one who meditates on God’s law day and night.”**

Though the year of 2020 has truly shaken everything up, one positive upside for me personally is that pandemic has given me an opportunity to slow down and learn new spiritual practices. One that I love using in particular is breath prayer. In this simple exercise, we are invited to find a comfortable place to sit or lay down. Using a short Bible passage or other phrase such as “God is love,” we take a slow deep breath in, allowing our lungs to fully expand while focusing on our phrase. Then we exhale, meditating on God’s word for us. We inhale again and repeat the process several times. Pretty soon, we fall into a rhythm that can become ingrained in our daily lives and are blessed by the peace it brings. May you find joy and *shalom* in the practice of meditating on God’s word.

Let Us Pray Together

God our peace, You meet us in the lightness of day and in the darkness of night. You bless us with Your word, which inspires us toward greater love for You and toward others. Teach us to meditate on all You have to offer, so that we might offer the same peace we receive from You to all whom we encounter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

George Whitefield United Methodist Church Building Re-Entry

We are so thankful for your patience and understanding as we carefully consider our church's health and future in regard to in-person services. During our latest meeting, we assessed our risk factors and have decided to continue **outdoor worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month through the end of October. Until then, the building and grounds remain closed.** However, we are beginning to explore what it would take for us to return to indoor worship.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be reaching out to discuss your comfort level with the following:

- Signing a waiver every time we meet prior to entering the building releasing George Whitefield United Methodist Church and its employees from liability
- Indoor worship requiring:
 - Masks worn properly by everyone entering the building and strictly enforced physical distancing
 - Worship in the fellowship hall and bringing your own chairs to be placed on pre-measured marks
 - Drafty/potentially cold environment (open windows and fans to promote ventilation)
 - 3 to 5 volunteers for initial setup
 - 5 to 7 volunteers required each time we meet (at least 5 each time, with 2 for rotation purposes)
 - A portion of our budget being devoted to cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting supplies
- Given our unique demographic makeup, we will be taking all necessary precautions and will do everything in our power to ensure safety to our best ability. This means that we require **three to five volunteers** to help with the initial setup of the fellowship hall, and **five to seven volunteers** each time we meet to ensure proper cleaning, documentation, and safety protocols (at least five volunteers each time we meet, with two volunteers for rotation purposes). If enough interest is generated, and we have enough volunteers to ensure sustainable rotation of volunteers, we plan to move forward to in-person indoor worship beginning on Sunday, November 8th at 9:30 AM. However, if we do not have enough volunteers, we will move back to full remote worship, available online or over the phone, until the Reopening Advisory Board and the Trustees determine that we will be able to move forward with indoor gatherings. Below you will find a volunteer checklist. Please reach out to Pastor Christy by Sunday, October 18th if you are interested in serving. Thank you!

Initial Setup (3-5 volunteers) (all due prior to first gathering on November 8, 2020)

- Determine maximum occupancy number (25% of the space's maximum capacity based on fire marshall orders AND no more than ten people per 1,000 square feet)
 - TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE: hall + kitchen = 1,919 // Sanctuary = 1,665
 - Total number of people allowed = 19 in hall + kitchen // 16 in sanctuary
- Obtain box fans, circulating fans, and other ways of moving air to aid in ventilation
- Determine a building heating plan
- Determine the maximum number of chairs allowed per occupancy requirements and square footage restrictions, and measure, tape, and orient the arrangement of podium/pulpit, piano/keyboard, and chairs prior to first gathering
- Clearly mark entrance and exit (entrance through sanctuary door, exit through fellowship hall door) using tape on the floor and signage on doors and walls
- Clearly mark physical distance markings on the floor leading through the sanctuary and into the fellowship hall to ensure physical distancing in the case that a queue forms
- Post required state signage regarding warnings about entering the building if experiencing symptoms, minimizing contact with others, and mask requirements
- Clearly mark that restrooms will remain closed
- Set up sanitization station prior to first gathering (water dispenser, soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, sanitizing wipes)
- Deep cleaning: Sweeping, mopping, dusting, and sanitizing of all surfaces including door handles, light switches, and chairs after setup is complete.

Volunteer #1 _____

Volunteer #2 _____

Volunteer #3 _____

Twice Per Month (5 - 7 volunteers per gathering)

- Sanitize all door handles, light switches, and seating prior to each gathering; and open windows and run fans at least 30 minutes prior to and for the full duration of each gathering (1 volunteer)
 - November 8th, 2020 _____
- Ensure the sanitization station has enough supplies/is fully stocked prior to each gathering; and obtain more product as required, submitting reimbursement requests to our Treasurer, Peg Hannigan (1 volunteer)
 - November 8th, 2020 _____
- Two ushers per service (2 volunteers)
 - Entrance Usher will ensure that everyone who enters the building is wearing a mask properly covering both the mouth and nose and has signed a waiver per insurance requirements (new signed waiver required at each meeting); will take attendance; direct people through the sanctuary and into the fellowship hall; and sanitize entrance door handles and light switches once everyone is inside the building as well as following the gathering
 - Fellowship Hall Usher will direct people to their seats and to the sanitization station if they need it; ensure that people keep physical distance from one another and continue to wear their masks properly; ensure that people know that the restrooms remain closed; and sanitize exit door handles and light switches following the service
 - Both Ushers will ensure one-way traffic through the building and limit cluster formations in hallways or small spaces; monitor for potential symptoms including coughing; and be prepared to enforce mask-wearing and physical distancing protocols, up to and including asking someone to leave if they refuse to take proper precautions
 - November 8th, 2020 _____

- Required checklists for State of Massachusetts (1 volunteer) (could be combined with another responsibility)
 - November 8th, 2020 _____
- Trash removal (1 volunteer) (could be combined with another responsibility)
 - November 8th, 2020 _____
- Building lock-up: close and lock all windows, turn off fans and lights, and ensure the building is locked before leaving (1 volunteer) (could be combined with another responsibility)
 - November 8th, 2020 _____