



Fruitland and Payette United Methodist Churches

May 27, 2020

Beloved,

The historic and life-changing days of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect our congregations. Our buildings have remained closed to almost all activity since late March. Worship opportunities, meetings, and other gatherings have found new ways to continue while many of our normal interactions have simply disappeared.

On May 20, 2020 the leadership of the Greater Northwest Area of the United Methodist Church released a document, which will guide United Methodist Congregations through four phases of reopening. We are presently in Phase 1. Resuming in-person worship services and Bible studies in our buildings is **not** imminent. As the document reports, "The Greater Northwest Area will be prudent and measured in reopening our church and ministry sites and returning to in-person worship and gatherings." (p. 5)

The document requires each congregation to develop a "reopening plan" laying out how we will meet the requirements and recommendations for moving through each phase. Payette and Fruitland each have a task force to develop these plans.

I have included a chart outlining the plan's four phases is included. Please spend some time with this chart. Discuss it with others from your church. Write down your questions and any clarifications need. We are presently in Phase 1 (highlighted in red), June 15 is the earliest date we can move to Phase 2.

A video will be available early next week. In it I'll visit with you about the phases, bring you up to date on the policies and practices the task forces are working on, and offer my perspectives on what to expect in the coming weeks.

How can our congregations remain faithful to Christ in this unique time? What steps will help better equip us to live out His call, to minister in His name to a different cultural landscape than we've ever experienced? These questions are at the heart of our reentry planning.

You should know that your generous gifts to our Grocery Gift Card mission are having an impact. This afternoon (Wednesday) I received two phone calls from very grateful people who each received one of your gifts. I enjoyed telling them about you and your faithfulness to Jesus.

The audio recording and bulletin for the May 31 worship service will be available Saturday.

So until we meet again, care for your souls and wash your hands,

Jim

Pastor Jim

Payette Reentry Task Force

Danny Crego – Chair

Leslie Olson

Dianne Kinney

Cris Warzyn

Gary Olson

Fruitland Reentry Task Force

Larry Haley – Chair

Freda Lee

Roxie Tolbert

Jeff Ward

Holly Hutchinson

Cindy Lee

Dennis Ujiiye

Enc: 1

A Safe Reopening at a Glance

PHASE	1	2	3	4
HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS	Stay Home, Save Lives	Stay Home, Save Lives	Stay Home, Save Lives	Discretionary
PHYSICAL DISTANCING	Strict	Strict	Moderate	Limited
MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE	5	10	50	No size limit
LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess church or ministry capacity Develop plan re-imagining ministry together Create communication strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess church or ministry capacity Review & update plan reimagining ministry together Communicate progress or updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess church or ministry capacity Review & update plan reimagining ministry together Communicate progress or updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess church or ministry capacity Review & update plan reimagining ministry together Communicate progress or updates
SAFETY ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face masks & physical distancing required Hand washing or sanitizer used consistently Sanitize after each use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face masks & physical distancing required Hand washing or sanitizer used consistently Sanitize after each use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face masks & physical distancing required Alternatives to typical worship practices Provide hygiene supplies Sanitize after each use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternatives to typical worship practices Provide hygiene supplies Sanitize regularly
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and volunteers work from home Limited access for essential functions allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and designated volunteers may work in building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and designated volunteers may work in building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and designated volunteers resume work in building
WORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual only Group of 5 or less may gather in building for worship recording, no singing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual only Group of 10 less may gather in building for worship recording, no singing Drive-in type gatherings permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual plus in-person worship up to 50 people, weddings and funerals No communion, live singing, or food service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual plus in-person worship, weddings and funerals No live singing Limited coffee hour
MINISTRY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS	Virtual only	Virtual plus limited in-person designated meetings & services	Virtual plus limited in-person designated meetings & services	Virtual and in-person
BUILDING USE	Closed	Limited to staff, volunteers & designated services	Limited to staff, volunteers & designated services	Open
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND OUTREACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Limited essential crisis services offered outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Limited essential crisis services offered outdoors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Limited services in building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Services in building
ESSENTIAL SERVICES	Following strict state & local guidelines	Following strict state & local guidelines	Following strict state & local guidelines	Following strict state & local guidelines
OTHER MINISTRY SETTINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed Consistent with guidelines above & contextualized for unique ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Consistent with guidelines above & contextualized for unique ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Consistent with guidelines above & contextualized for unique ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Consistent with guidelines above & contextualized for unique ministry