



Congregational Connections

Monthly E-Newsletter of First Congregational Church, UCC | Port Washington, Wisconsin | August 2021

AUGUST VACCINATION (AND AUGUST RETURN)

It is already the closing month of summer. I'm glad it has five Sundays; maybe it will seem to stretch the summer out just a little bit longer. The McLeod household has finished up our own summer vacation get-away, and I believe, seen the last of the summer family visitors from out of state. I know other families are feeling the press of the coming school season with the ramping up of kid's activities, team sports and wondering what new teachers and new classes will bring. Certainly, we've all seen the "back-to-school" retail promotions that have begun in the stores, and even though I'm not taking any classes I still have the urge to stock up on pens, paper and other school supplies.

Unfortunately, as we try to get back to the regular events of the end of summer and beginning of fall, the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic is still very much present all around us and throughout the world. I want to encourage anyone who has not yet received a Covid-19 vaccination to please go and get yourself vaccinated. I understand that there may be reasons some people can't be vaccinated, but for your health and the health of those around you, more of us need to be vaccinated. I have been vaccinated and everyone in my family has been vaccinated. If you want life to return to some version of "normal" you can be vaccinated too. The rise of the Delta variant puts all of us at risk, and the best way to fight it is through increased vaccination rates.

I am hopeful that even with a few people remaining vaccine hesitant, there are enough positive signs on the horizon that we're just about ready to get back to a version of "normal" in the church. The Reopening Team and the Council are meeting this month to make some decisions about what that will look like.

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...AUGUST continued...

I'm praying that the pandemic indications will be turning towards fewer infections and fewer hospitalizations here in our county, our state, the country, and the world. I want to return to having congregational singing, and choral anthems; I want to hear the kid's laughter in Church School and to being able to share fellowship time with all of you. I want luncheons and classes and retreats and service opportunities, and mission projects! But we aren't going to be able to do it if we are endangering the lives of participants because Covid-19 variants are running wild. Let's get back to doing what the church does best. Do what you can to increase the percentage of the fully vaccinated in Ozaukee County.

Courage and Peace,
Pastor Scott



REOPENING TEAM UPDATES

Hello everyone! Happy Summer! Our in-person worship has been going very well. It's so great to see everyone! We've had between 20 and 30 every week which is about normal for the summer months anyway. We have continued to work on plans to move forward with more reopening. There are two proposals before the Church Council that include adding singing back into worship and also moving toward full reopening for the program year. We are watching current trends to see if or how that will affect our planning. We are still strongly suggesting that anyone who is unvaccinated but attends services to continue to wear a mask for their own protection. Vaccination seems to be the best prevention of the spread of Covid-19 or at least the cases seem generally milder. If you are not vaccinated but wish to be and need assistance, contact the church office and help will be provided. If you are not sure that vaccination is right for you, please contact your health care provider. We are all anxious to get back to normal. Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!
Phil Stepanski, Reopening Team Chair

WORSHIP WITH US!

During the summer months, from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, we have one service on Sunday mornings at 9:00.

CLICK AWAY!

Remember to be on the lookout for orange text throughout this e-newsletter. The orange text is linked up to other documents or web pages that you might find helpful and interesting.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEXT E-NEWSLETTER

If you have any celebrations, concerns/prayer requests or other contributions that you would like us to include in a future e-newsletter, let us know. Please email us 7-10 days before the first day of the month.