



August 6, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

The executive committee is aware that we all miss gathering on Sunday mornings. We are grateful that technology allows us to worship together while we are apart. It is not the same, however, as assembling in our sanctuary. That loss is palpable in the many conversations that have been shared with us.

While a vaccine is ultimately the answer, we know social distancing and being outside minimize the risk of transmission. Guided by this science, we are proposing to open our church for outside worship services on August 16 at 9:30am on the somewhat uneven ground adjacent to the cemetery behind Ober Hall. It will also be live streamed on our FaceBook page and placed on our website for those who would rather not attend in person. The service will be conducted in accordance with guidance from the Maine CDC and under the following conditions:

1. Masks are to be worn at all times.
2. Physical distancing is to be maintained of at least 6ft.
3. No singing is permitted.
4. No physical contact should be made i.e. no hugging, handshaking, kissing, etc.
5. Reservations should be made three days before worship by leaving a message at 967-3897. This will enable us to coordinate seating arrangements, as admission is limited.
6. Entrance to our outdoor service is through Ober Hall only.
7. Temperatures will be taken before entering the church.
8. The name & contact information of each person will be entered into a log book for potential contact tracing.
9. Hand sanitizer, bulletins, face masks (if you've forgotten one) and the collection basket will be in Ober Hall.
10. Communion elements and bibles must be brought from home and will not be provided.
11. Congregants will be dismissed in rows by the ushers when the service is concluded.
12. There will be no refreshments offered.
13. Please do not attend if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - a. fever or chills
 - b. cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - d. fatigue
 - e. muscle or body aches
 - f. headache
 - g. new loss of taste or smell
 - h. sore throat

- i. congestion or runny nose
- j. nausea or vomiting
- k. diarrhea

Please note that the Maine CDC recommends that persons at high-risk for COVID-19 are encouraged to use online or other remote options to attend services, meetings, and other religious gatherings at this time. High-risk individuals include:

1. People 65 or older
2. People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
 - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who have serious heart conditions
 - People who are immunocompromised. Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including:
 - cancer treatment,
 - smoking,
 - bone marrow or organ transplantation,
 - immune deficiencies,
 - poorly controlled HIV or AIDS,
 - prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune system weakening medications
 - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
 - People with diabetes
 - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
 - People with liver disease

Some have asked for the opportunity to attend live services and so we offer this as an alternative to televised worship. Remember: the best way to avoid contact with the virus is to avoid contact with those carrying it. If you feel at all concerned about contracting the virus by meeting this way or fit into any of the above risk categories we encourage you to avail yourself of our remote broadcast instead.

If the outside service is to be cancelled for any reason we will contact those who have preregistered and place the information on our web site. Please pre register at 967-3897 to help us better plan the logistics of each worship service.

Your suggestions, opinions and comments are welcomed in these difficult times. Please contact us at 967-3897 or at our website: firstchurchkport.org

The Executive Committee

Carol Cook, Moderator
Barbara Vennell, Treasurer
Larry Vennell, Deacon

Laura Burne, Asst. Moderator
Dan Burne, Trustee
Cheryl Kane, Member at Large