



*Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving
and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's holy name.*

Psalm 100:4

Dear Friends,

June 9, 2020

This week's letter and bulletin mark our twelfth week of separation. In this week's Iowa DPH <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/#CurrentStatus> website report, we have two active cases of coronavirus in Jones County. To date in Jones County, thirty-eight cases were identified, thirty-six resolved, and no deaths due to COVID-19. For these statistics alone, I give thanks to God. Many churches in Jones County will soon reopen for limited in-person worship services. We, too, will resume worship services this coming Sunday at 9:00 am.

We will enter our sanctuary with thanksgiving and praise to bless God's holy name. And we will do so with new safety precautions. Psalm 100 is an invitation to enter joyfully into God's presence, who has remained present with us and will continue to be, even in our absence from one another. It is a fitting psalm for this coming Sunday as we gather with joy.

Here are guidelines we will need to follow during our Wednesday and Sunday gatherings:

Upon arrival

- Enter the building – front door propped open, no AC, ceiling fans on, windows open to allow fresh air to circulate through the sanctuary.
- Before entering the sanctuary, please sanitize hands, and pick up a bulletin and hymnal if you wish to use one.
- After entering the sanctuary, go straight to a pew closest to the front labeled with a **white dot**. No more than 6 persons may occupy a **white-dotted** pew. Fourteen pews have been labeled to allow seating at least 6 feet apart. Individuals and family units will need to gage seating 6 feet apart from others within each pew. Maximum capacity in the sanctuary during pandemic is 80 persons. Additional seating is available in our narthex/overflow.
- Face coverings are encouraged to be worn when speaking liturgy and singing softly. Bring your own, as only a few face coverings will be available in the narthex. Please follow the COVID-19 guidelines found in your yellow bulletin insert.

Worship services will be kept to 40 minutes in length to reduce any exposure.

- Offering plates will remain at sanctuary entrances. Children's offering bucket will be located at the center aisle entrance.

- Communion will be practiced as follows: those preparing and serving communion will sanitize their hands immediately before preparing and distributing • During the Great Thanksgiving, the pastor will stand back from the table after uncovering communion bread and wine/juice • Congregation should refrain from standing close together in a communion line. Those serving communion will wear masks. Empty communion glasses to be deposited in receptacles at the outer wall.

Upon leaving

- Congregation is dismissed one pew at a time, starting at the back of the church. Hymnals are to be left in the pew racks to be collected and cleaned later. Everyone is encouraged to take their bulletin home and promptly exit the church building.

Two other important notes regarding in-person and stay at home worship services. First, a reminder that our Wednesday, June 17th evening worship will match the Sunday, June 21st service. This pattern will allow us to record SoundCloud and radio broadcast in accordance with the liturgical calendar. Secondly, after thoughtful consideration regarding video production, and with opening our doors on June 14th, we have decided to discontinue the video worship service. Links to our services on SoundCloud will continue to be available at www.waynezion.org/worship, and KMCH 94.7 FM will continue to broadcast on Sunday mornings. We will mail out a weekly pastoral letter and bulletin through the week of June 22nd.

Those who wish to continue receiving a weekly bulletin by mail in July, please contact Kelly Helgens at our office (465-4834), Monday-Friday, 8AM – 4PM.

Finally, my thanks and appreciation to Kelly Helgens, Etta Dirks, Barb Andreesen, Pete, Levi, and Ian Temple, Liz Reddy, Byron Freese, Dale and Jeanne Heeren, Rhonda Weers, Kathy Harms, Amie, Maddie, Jackie, Katie Stadtmueller, and you our listeners for joining us in worship every Sunday and Vespers on Wednesday. We have learned a lot in these last five weeks and have a greater appreciation for all the work involved in producing a video church service.

It is with a thankful heart – we are church together, even when apart. I hope to see you soon.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Wade+