

July 1, 2020

Dear Family and Friends of Wesley UMC,



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Sioux City, IA 51104

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As many of you have heard, our beloved Administrative Secretary, Judy Peterson, has suffered a stroke that has impaired her ability to speak fluently but is now progressing day by day. Currently she is living at home with her daughter, Teri, here in Sioux City while she continues to receive much needed therapy. Please continue to pray for her quick recovery and renewed spirit.

Due to Judy's absence in terms of her role here at Wesley, and also due to the reduced need of activity information due to the virus, we are no longer producing a formal monthly newsletter for the time being. We will simply put out "Church News Updates" as the need presents itself. My wife, Beth has volunteered to maintain and update the church calendar on our website as well as lifting up new information on our Facebook page. If you are in need of scheduling information or desiring to offer information pertinent to church life, please contact Beth Schlitter via her email address: bethschlitter@gmail.com.

Though there have been some setbacks and challenges, we are so glad to celebrate our first step toward gathering in worship this past month as a successful and popular experience in the Lord! **Thus we will continue to offer our "Drive-in Worship Service" every Sunday at 10:00 AM through the remainder of the summer.**

In reference to our next step worship offering: since we usually work to produce a video worship service on **Saturday afternoons, we thought we would begin to offer our first in-person "Next Step Worship Service" opportunities beginning on Saturday, July 11, at 2:30 PM.** We will proceed with necessary precautions in place: being seated by ushers who will maintain six feet apart seating, hand sanitizers at the entrances, and with everyone encouraged to wear masks. Except for the Praise Team, there will be no out loud singing. There will be no fellowship time being offered within the building, but people will be encouraged (with social distancing in mind) to greet and visit outside.

This is a simple next step to see what an in-person worship is like in light of all the guidelines mentioned above. We're just going to give it a try. Pray and reflect. Then we will keep tweaking things until it feels like we can continue in a meaningful way. Of course those who are ill or who are vulnerable to the coronavirus are encouraged to stay at home and watch our online service.

We are also beginning to allow groups to make use of scheduled rooms in our building. Each party is to be responsible for their own sanitizing and cleaning after room usage. The box on the right is what we have on our regular schedule so far at Wesley in July.

And finally, I want to mention a word of congratulations to former members, Pastor Derrick and Theodora Okine who have a new appointment serving at two UM churches: First and Zion in Cresco, Iowa. Derrick will also be ordained as a Full Elder on July 11 in Cedar Rapids. You are encouraged to watch the interview of Derrick currently on our website as he shares of his mission work around the world. You may wish to support efforts to send books to the Okine home country of Ghana by submitting checks with "Ghana Mission" on the memo line and submit your check here at Wesley. Also, if you wish to send well wishes to the Okines, their new address is: 310 North Elm Street, Cresco, IA 52136-1452.

Blessings! Todd

Wesley UMC July Calendar

Saturdays at 2:30pm Inside Worship
Sundays at 10:00am Drive-in Worship
Wednesdays at 7:00pm Al Anon
Thursdays at 4:45pm TOPS
Thursdays at 7:30pm Al Anon