



# The Circuit Rider

Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church

Summer, 2021

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## Living in Hope

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and our Hope.

It’s hard to believe that we are preparing to begin summer at Shepherd of the Valley. It seems that it was not so very long ago that Tara, Xander, and I moved into the parsonage to begin being in ministry with all of you.

Even though almost a year has passed I know that I REALLY need to get to know you. We have a plan for that. This summer we will be hosting gatherings of small groups for meet and greets. We are still working out the kinks on how best to accomplish them, but be on the lookout for communication from Jay, Meg, and Sandy.

I am also looking forward to home visits in the fall! If you are interested in a pastoral visit at your home let me know and we can schedule a time for that! So much has happened in the ten months that I have been with you. Thank you for your patience and generous hearts. As God moves us forward together I *know* that there is so much in store for us at Shepherd of the Valley.

Moving Forward in Christ’s Service,

Pastor Effie



## Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church Vision Statement

We are Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church, a multi-generational Christ community seeking to sing God’s spirit into the world by inviting all, serving all, loving all.

**Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church, 604 Seven Mile Road, Hope, RI 02831**

**Worship via Zoom (see inside for details), Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

**July & August Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays**

**Phone: 821-8217 • Fax: 826-7787 • E-mail: [office@sovumc.org](mailto:office@sovumc.org) • Web site: [sovumc.org](http://sovumc.org)**

**Rev. Effie McAvoy**

# In-Person Worship

With great joy we are announcing that we will be offering in-person Sunday worship services again. We hope you will join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Those who cannot attend will still have the option of attending worship via Zoom, YouTube, or Facebook Live. Please review the important Covid-19 procedures below.

## Worship Sign-Up

For contact tracing and to ensure appropriate seating, we are requiring advance sign-up for worship. Please keep your eye on your email and sign up each week.

## Pre-Worship

1. Weekly announcements will still be sent digitally by Pam by Wednesday of each week.
2. The worship order/bulletin will also be shared digitally. There will be no printed bulletins for worship so if you need one, please **DOWNLOAD** or **PRINT** it before attending.
3. There will be **NO** tissues in the pews in the sanctuary nor any tissues on the chairs in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own.
4. To help keep everyone safe we will be keeping windows open during our service. Please dress accordingly.

## In-Person Worship Covid-19 Safe Plan

We ask you to abide by the following guidelines:

1. There will be signs directing you where you are to enter and exit. Please follow these signs with the help of the ushers.
2. Access to the sanctuary will be through the ramp doors nearest the church library.
3. Access to Fellowship Hall will be through the door to the right of the kitchen entryway.
4. Masks are required. Children 24 months of age and older are required to wear a face covering. Please cover both the nose and the mouth.
5. Hand sanitizer will be available.
6. Attendance will be taken. We respectfully request that any positive COVID test after worshipping at SOV be reported to the SOV Office Manager so that those in attendance with that person can be notified immediately. The person's identity will remain confidential.
7. We will fill the sanctuary from front to back and empty from front to back.
8. For Sanctuary sitting, you will be directed to and from your seat. We will sit only in every other pew, and parts of the seated pews will remain blocked off to ensure proper physical distancing. Ushers will show you to your seats. Please sit only where instructed (family and pod units will be seated together).
9. There will be special seats for visitors each week.
10. The offering plates will sit on a table at the entryway to the sanctuary as well as the door when exiting and on the Altar in Fellowship Hall. Please deposit your offerings in these locations depending on where you are worshipping on a particular Sunday. Please note that you can continue to mail in your offering or share your gifts via online giving.
11. Please refrain from congregating in the facility before or after service and refrain from handshakes or hugs during this time. Our safety demands exceptional care.
12. The kitchen will be closed.
13. When the sanctuary reaches capacity, we will have seating available in the Fellowship Hall where the service may be watched on the television. Please do not bring drinks or food into the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall unless necessary for medical reasons.
14. Please refrain from touching others while on the church premises. This is difficult, but to keep everyone safe, it is necessary.
15. There will be no Kleenex in the pews. Bring tissues if needed and carry them out with you. There will be a trash can by the exit for your convenience.

16. Windows will remain open and fans will be running during worship to ensure proper ventilation. Please dress accordingly.

#### Additional Notes

1. If you need to connect to the internet, please use your personal wi-fi—our tech team needs the church bandwidth for streaming.
2. The nursery will be open.
3. There will be no post-worship traditional fellowship time.
4. If you know of church members who do not have internet access, email, or are otherwise “technologically challenged,” please let the church office know so we can provide the appropriate information, sign-ups, etc. using traditional phone or snail mail options.

September  
Circuit Rider  
Input due  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>



## SOV COVID-19 Commandments

1. We shall not come to church when we are not feeling well.
2. We shall inform the Family Ministries Coordinator when we are in need of nursery care. (Children should be brought to the Nursery through the Hope Room doors.)
3. We shall wear a mask while on church grounds and inside the church. Only when speaking at the pulpit or lectern are they to be removed.
4. If attending worship in the Sanctuary, we shall place our offerings & prayer requests on the table as we enter.
5. If attending worship in Fellowship Hall, we shall place our prayer requests in the box near the entry way & offerings on the altar.
6. We shall be directed to the hand sanitizer stations as we enter the building.
7. We shall maintain physical distancing as advised by the CDC as we enter/exit the building and during services.
8. We shall sit where the ushers show us to sit. There we shall stay until it is time to exit the church.
9. We shall not sing inside the church. However, we may choose to sing along when services are outdoors.
10. We shall celebrate being together while staying mindful of our need to protect others around us. Please refrain from shaking hands, hugging, or kissing your siblings in Christ.

## Upcoming Events

### Summer Office and Staff Schedules

- Summer office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, starting July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Pastor Effie will be on vacation 6/20-7/3.
- June 30<sup>th</sup> will be Lisa Marciniak's last day of work for the summer.

### Women in Spiritual Harmony (WISH)

WISH will be ending its meetings for the summer on June 9<sup>th</sup> and resuming in September. We will be continuing our study of *Fascinating Bible Studies on Every Parable* by Dr William H. Marty. WISH meets via Zoom on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

### Wednesday Wisdom Seekers

The Wednesday Wisdom Seekers study group will finish our study of Islam on June 2<sup>nd</sup> before taking a break for the summer and starting our study of Judaism in September. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

### Last Day of Sunday School

Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, will be the last day of our Sunday School year. We will have a special service to mark this occasion, including a performance by the Sign Language Choir, and an end-of-year celebration. Join us!

### Youth Group Trip

Youth group will be going to the Museum of Natural History in Providence on Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> for the planetarium show at 2:00 p.m. Reservations must be made due to the museum's Covid-19 protocols so please let Lisa Marciniak know by June 6<sup>th</sup> if you will be attending.

### Day of Prayer 2021

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the United Methodist Women at Shepherd of the Valley (604 Seven Mile Road, Hope RI) will open our church and labyrinth from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the annual Day of Prayer and Self-Denial Celebration. Join us anytime during the day to take part in

contemplative, reflective, and interactive opportunities of prayer. We will come together around the theme *She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference*. We welcome you to come pray, learn, and offer your gifts that will make a real change in the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

- PRAY - As we unite in prayer, we prepare ourselves to listen.
- LEARN - As we learn about the impact of the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, we also learn about the impact our giving has on the world.
- GIVE - As we generously give, we remember with confidence all that God has already done in and through us and all that God has yet for us to do.

Join together to bring justice and inspire change, living into United Methodist Women's faith and action.

Please note that we are following all CDC Covid-19 protocols to protect the vulnerable around us and request that you and your party wear masks while in the church building. For more information, please contact UMW President Barbara Walz ([barbw146@verizon.net](mailto:barbw146@verizon.net)) or the SOV Church Office (401.821.8217 or [office@sovumc.org](mailto:office@sovumc.org)).

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Worship

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be worshipping outdoors, weather dependent. Keep your eye on the Sunday announcements for more details closer to the date.

### Meet Pastor Effie in Person!

A sign-up link will be sent in June so you can choose a date to meet Pastor Effie. Seating will be limited. Dates are:

- July 10 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- July 14 – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- July 24 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.

We will meet in small groups outside on the lawn, or in the Hope Room if the weather is bad. Come and get to know your pastor!



**New Worship Series**

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be starting a new worship series called "Earth & Sacred Space, Creation Spirituality."



Alongside the traditional liturgical year, we will celebrate a cycle of four paths relating to our experience with God:

- Recognizing the inherent goodness of all creation (including our own potential for good)
- Befriending dark places and times in our lives as fodder for new life
- Exclaiming divine creativity and our role in co-creating with God
- Embodying compassion and power to bring more wholeness and justice to the world.

**Summer Meeting Schedules**

Church Council: The Church Council will not meet in June or July. Our next meeting will be on August 23, 2021. Group and committee leaders are asked to meet with their teams over the summer and be ready at the August meeting to report on the visions your teams want to implement.

Trustees: The Trustees will not meet in July or August. Regular meetings will resume in September.

**Confirmation**

It was a beautiful Pentecost Sunday at Shepherd of the Valley. Not only did we celebrate worshipping in our sanctuary in over a year, but we welcomed new confirmands. They are:

Jason Corey, Chris Lea  
Morgan Austin Josh  
Katelyn and Nick

We are also grateful to their sponsors who were a part of their faith journey: Beth Travers, Jerry Crosby, Greg Thuotte, Howard Gay, Donna Gaumond, Jay O'Connor, Steve Higgins, Meaghan Davis, and Sue Vandall.

If you were unable to attend, you can watch the service on our YouTube channel or Facebook.

**Regular Events**

*Editor's Note: SOV has a number of regular meetings and events, listed below. Unless otherwise noted, these will occur via Zoom. All meetings and events are subject to current RI COVID regulations governing gatherings. If you have something you'd like included in this section, please email me at [belllomb@cox.net](mailto:belllomb@cox.net).*

Hannah Bell-Lombardo

- **Sunday Worship** – Sunday worship will continue to be held via Zoom. Pre-worship gathering starts at 9:30, worship starts at 10:00 a.m. The order of service will be emailed in advance. Please contact the office if you would like to be included on this email.
- **Sunday School** – Last day will be June 6<sup>th</sup> with a special end-of-year celebration.
- **Communion Sunday** – Pastor Effie will be offering communion during worship the first Sunday of each month. If you would like to participate via Zoom, Facetime, or YouTube, have some grape juice and some kind of bread which she will bless during worship.
- **Knitting Ministry**—2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the church, subject to COVID restrictions.
- **Women in Spiritual Harmony**—Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- **Wednesday Wisdom Seekers**—Wednesdays via Zoom from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- **Men's Breakfast**—This group is on hiatus due to COVID and will resume meeting when it's safe for our attendees. See the church website, SOVUMC.org for future meetings.



## Help Wanted

### Ushers Needed!!

Please note that we will be unable to open unless we have ushers. We need at least five ushers per service, plus backups, on a rotating schedule to ensure that people know where they're going and follow the rules. If you are interested, please sign up at the link below. It is critical that we fill these positions. If we do not, we will have to return to fully remote worship. Please help!

<https://forms.gle/5wRUzESQxnFGJ2Wj9>

### Audio-Visual Help

We are looking for one or two more people to help on a rotating schedule the AV/Audio system.

Training will be provided. If you are interested or want to see if this is something that may interest you please contact Sandy Knapp at [sknapp719@icloud.com](mailto:sknapp719@icloud.com)

### Nursery Help

While we have a paid nursery staff member, an additional person is needed each Sunday. If interested, please contact Lisa Marciniak at [lhardgrove@yahoo.com](mailto:lhardgrove@yahoo.com). There is a television in the nursery to view the worship service.

### Music Ministry

Our music ministry continues to evolve. We are exploring how to use our choir members and church musicians in different ways, including integrating digital technology. If you have a musical (or digital) talent you'd like to share, please contact the church office. Our worship team will welcome your input!

### Gardeners

Our garden is an important source of fresh food for our food pantry. As prime growing season approaches, we need help with the garden. Please contact the church office if you are interested. Timing/hours are flexible.

### Cleaning Help

Mary Cooney is in need of someone to clean her home for about three hours every other week. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the church office.

## Caring and Sharing

### Youth Thanks!

Sunday School: First a huge thank you to Jerry Crosby for teaching our youth and to Doreen Fish, Beth Travers, and Alix Etheridge for teaching our elementary class. Second, thanks to Mary Hunter for all her children's moments during church service as well as the wonderful letters and activities she mailed out to the kids. Finally, many thanks to the families for being flexible throughout the year with being in person and on Zoom. See you in the fall!

Sign Language Choir: A huge thank you goes out to Donna Gaumond for teaching the kid's Sign Language Choir this year via Zoom. It was a great addition to our Sunday Zoom services.

### Open Table

Theresa Squire will be picking up donations of clothes and small housewares at the church the first two Tuesdays of June to take to the Open Closet at Open Table. Open Table will be tentatively shutting down for three to four weeks in July for renovations and will not be accepting donations during that time.

### Mary Cooney Thanks

Thank you for all the cards, visits, and good wishes during my neurological illness. These visits have been appreciated during this time. Again, thank you for prayers and well wishes. They have brightened my day.

Mary Cooney

### Community Garden

Gardeners! Please consider donating some traditional garden vegetable plants for our Community Garden. We hope to have the garden planted in the next few weeks. Let Pastor Effie know what you are able contribute to the garden. Workers are always welcome!

### Music Leaders

Thanks to our recent worship music leaders: Rob Bower, Carol Leith, Sue Dyl, and Shyla Mollo



### Medical Assistance Fund

The Medical Assistance Fund was established some years ago to help congregation members with medical bills and related expenses. If you need this type of help, please contact Pastor Effie directly.

### Magazines Needed

Please save your old magazines. AJ, one of our church children, relieves stress by tearing magazines and needs more given the increased tension of these times. Please drop your magazines off outside the Hope Room door (where the food pantry bins are located). We will be sure to get them to AJ.

### Shepherd's Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of the Food Pantry. We need vegetables, soup, pasta and pasta sauce, jelly and snacks. Gift cards to help out with things like milk, fruit and meat (or cards that can also be used for gas) would be greatly appreciated. Running low on boxes too! Computer paper boxes are the ideal size. You can drop your donations off under the overhang at the entrance to the Hope Room. Someone is at the church regularly to collect and distribute your offerings.

### Shut-Ins

We have a number of shut-ins who could use a phone call, card, note, or delivery. Contact Pastor Effie or the church office if you can help.

### Social Media

Social media sites, such as Facebook, are becoming an invaluable way to connect with others during this time of self-isolation and social distancing. To join (even if only during the current situation), go to [www.facebook.com/r.php](http://www.facebook.com/r.php), input the appropriate information, and click "Sign Up." Use the search function to find the Shepherd of the Valley page and follow what we're posting.

### Save Your Pop-Tabs!

Keep saving your pop-tabs (soda or soup cans, etc.), putting them in the box in the kitchen, for the Ronald McDonald house in Providence.

## Finance Update

Through the first four months of 2021, Shepherd of the Valley's financial results are a bit behind budget. Revenues for the church are \$61,000 versus a budget of \$67,000. Expenses through April 30, 2021 are \$66,000 which is spot on a budget of \$66,000. Thus, net income through four months is a loss of \$5,000 versus a budgeted gain of \$1,000. Revenues are lower than expected due to less-than-anticipated general giving to the church. Expenses are on budget, despite higher-than-expected utility costs. That adverse result was offset by favorable variances in a variety of expense categories.

Our finances are in a modestly adverse position as we look toward the remainder of the year. Our hope is that the return to in person services will inspire our congregation to continue to give generously to our church. Our success in meeting our budget will depend on the wonderful and profound generosity of our church members. The important work of the church continues and with your on-going support we will continue to make a difference in our lives and those of others, both spiritually and physically.

## Office Notes

### Address Changes and Updates

Address changes (including email!) should go to Pam ASAP...she is always updating the directory for 2021. Call (821-8217) or email ([office@sovumc.org](mailto:office@sovumc.org)) the church office. She is also looking to update contact information on young adult family members.



### Announcements and Prayer Lists

Please have your announcements sent to Pam no later than Tuesday for the following Sunday. Announcements should be brief (expanded versions should be sent to Hannah for the Circuit Rider.) Names for the Prayer List should also be sent to her with a notation for those who are long-term.

### Zoom and Room Scheduling

Requests for use of the church's Zoom account should be sent to Sandy Knapp at [sknapp719@icloud.com](mailto:sknapp719@icloud.com). Room schedules for small groups should be scheduled through Pam in the church office.

## Greening OUR Valley: Summer Reading

Most of us no longer face the prospect of school summer reading lists, but may find ourselves with a little extra time on our hands. The Wednesday Wisdom Seekers study group has put together a list of books that might interest you, covering a variety of fiction and non-fiction topics and styles, all related to nature and climate change. Happy reading!



### Fiction

- *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver – A young wife and mother on a failing farm in rural Tennessee experiences an aberrant migration of Monarch butterflies, most likely the result of climate change. Her discovery energizes various competing factions—religious leaders, climate scientists, environmentalists, politicians—trapping her in the center of the conflict and ultimately opening up her world.
- *Prodigal Summer* Barbara Kingsolver – Over the course of one humid summer, this novel's intriguing protagonists face disparate predicaments but find connections to one another and to the flora and fauna with which they necessarily share a place.
- *Migrations* by Charlotte McConaghy – A woman boards a fishing boat to follow the last arctic terns on what could be their final journey from Greenland to Antarctica in a

future of ecological bleakness. On her journey, her dark secrets catch up with her.

- *Barkskins* by E. Annie Proulx – This is an epic novel, spanning the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to today, involves the demise of the world's forests as humans have seized on what we've presumed an infinite resource, leaving the modern-day characters face to face with possible ecological collapse.
- *Hummingbird Salamander* by Jeff VanderMeer – VanderMeer wraps profound questions about climate change, identity, and the world we live in into a tightly plotted thriller full of unexpected twists and elaborate conspiracy.

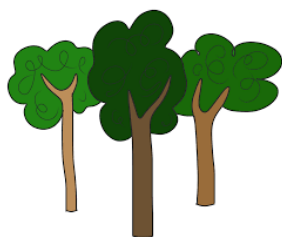
### Nonfiction

- *Collapse* by Jared Diamond – This author explores how climate change, the population explosion and political discord create the conditions for the collapse of civilization, raising the urgent question: How can our world best avoid committing ecological suicide?
- *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates - Gates sets out a wide-ranging, practical—and *accessible*—plan for how the world can get to zero greenhouse gas emissions in time to avoid a climate catastrophe.
- *The Climate Diet: 50 Simple Ways to Trim your Carbon Footprint* by Paul Greenburg – This book presents salable personal changes we can make from changing out lightbulbs to changing where our electricity comes from to asking your municipality the change too.
- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer – The author is both a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, combining her scientific background with indigenous wisdom to argue that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires acknowledgement and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.
- *High Tide in Tucson* by Barbara Kingsolver – Kingsolver returns to her familiar themes of family, community, the common good and the natural world, on subjects ranging from modern motherhood to the history of private



property to the suspended citizenship of human beings in the Animal Kingdom.

- *Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future* by Elizabeth Kolbert – Kolbert presents a survey of our attempts to manage natural systems of all sizes, from preserving tiny populations of desert fish to altering the entire atmosphere, and their unintended consequences.
- *Rising: Dispatches from the American Shore* by Elizabeth Rush – Rising seas are transforming the coastline of the United States in irrevocable ways. This book looks at of the places where this change has been most dramatic, from the Gulf Coast to Miami, and from New York City to the Bay Area, and what the options are.
- *A World on the Wing* by Scott Weidensaul – Go on a gripping journey alongside migratory birds and the people who study them, drawing attention to the large number of birds that have been disappearing from the skies.
- *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben – Trees are like human families: Living together, communicating with each other, supporting each other, sharing nutrients, and even warning each other of impending danger. Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests, explaining the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in his woodland.
- *The Secret Wisdom of Nature* by Peter Wohlleben – This book provides a thought-provoking exploration of the vast natural systems that make life on Earth possible, including the fascinating interplay between animals and plants: Can they influence each other? Do lifeforms communicate across species boundaries? And what happens when this finely tuned system gets out of sync? This book will help you see the world around us with new eyes.



## Church Council Minutes: April 26, 2021

Church Council members present via Zoom included Beth Travers, Barbara Walz, Lisa Marciniak, Theresa Squire, Sandy and Mike Knapp, Sue Dyl, Donna Faria, Howard Gay, Shyla Mollo, Jay O'Connor, Beth Travers, Meg Davis, John Lombardo, and Hannah Bell-Lombardo. Also present were Pastor Effie McAvoy and congregational member Marti Bower.

Sandy opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. with the reading of “Prayers for the Earth.”

We discussed the church opening. We will need at least five ushers for each service; we have three signed up so far. There will be mandatory training sessions offered in May. Pam has developed a signup process to assess in-person, Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube attendance. Nursery needs will be added to this sign-up process. Regular worshippers will rotate between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall each week. Fellowship options are still under consideration. The Council approved continuation of the 10:00 worship time. Sunday School will continue to be virtual for this year, and the staff is working on having something to do for the children each week during in-person worship. Lisa is also reaching out to families for what they’d like to see for the summer. The nursery will be open.

In committee reports:

- Family Ministry (Lisa): Opening plans are noted above. Confirmation is going well with ten confirmands. She is looking into the year-end celebration on 6/6 with the possibility of an ice cream truck. There will be a recorded Sign Language Choir performance.
- Trustees (Mike): Mike thanked everyone who helped with the clean-up day. Trustees are still working on some projects at the parsonage. He needs a tree company to look at trees on the property with some issues.

- Missions (Theresa, from Arizona!): Open Table is currently open, but will close this summer for renovations. She is looking into a fall mission project as the sock collection went so well.
- Hospitality (Sue): She is waiting to see the specifics on worship reopening, and will attend the next Worship Committee meeting to see what the Hospitality group can do to help.
- Worship (Shyla): Worship will be meeting tomorrow and discussing the reopening plans and walk-through.
- Finance (John): The January and February data showed us considerably behind budget, however we recovered in March. We are still behind by \$4,000, mostly on the giving vs. expense side. He had circulated the second quarter budget with two tables (copy available on request): the original 12-month budget (with a loss of \$6,000), and the second quarter budget based on results to date. He noted that positive adjustments included the lack of a Director of Music's salary, and savings since Annual Conference will not be happening. These savings total about \$4500. The second quarter budget was unanimously approved.
- Stewardship (Howard): He has analyzed giving data including the "Pledged" (pledged and are giving), "Expected" (pledged in the past but have not pledged as of December), and "No Pledge" (don't pledge but have a steady history of giving) categories. We will look to follow up with those who are not giving in all three categories. Howard also mentioned the giving related to the UMC Special Sundays: Native American Sunday in April, and the upcoming Peace with Justice Sunday on 5/30.
- Staff Parish Relations Committee (Beth): The committee needs to meet to complete job descriptions.
- United Methodist Women (Barbara): This group met last week and are planning a Prayer and Self-Denial Day on 6/19. More information will be forthcoming as plans are developed. They will be meeting again on the 5/27, and are working with the District to identify others who would like to be part of this organization.
- Lay Leaders (Meg and Jay): Jay noted it "warmed his heart" to see things going on that couldn't before, including confirmation, the cleanup, and upcoming opening. Meg seconded his emotions.
- Pastor (Effie): She is looking to do "meet and greets" possibly starting in July to get to know the congregation in person.
- Other (Sandy): She noted the need for another tech person, adding that the job is not that difficult.
- Open Table (Donna): Nothing as they are meeting next week.

In other business, Mother's Day (5/9) will be an in-person, masked, outside service. The call will be made to cancel on Friday if the weather looks bad. Attendees are urged to bring their own chairs. Worship on 5/16 will be via Zoom. Worship on 5/23 will be 100% in person for the confirmands, their families and sponsors; in Fellowship Hall for the rest of the attendees. We will reserve space in the sanctuary for visitors.

Effie closed the meeting at 7:55 with a prayer. The next meeting will be on 5/24/21 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Bell-Lombardo

