

*Rappahannock Charge United Methodist Church*



*Rev. Jessie Colwell*  
*jessie@rappumc.org*

August 13, 2020

Dear RappUMC Family,

Grace and peace be with you! I wanted to reach out to everyone to say thank you. Thank you for your patience, thank you for your generosity, thank you for continuing to embody your faith during this pandemic. I also wanted to write to you to share some important information. We have continued to worship in-person at all three churches since July 12, 2020. We are still taking extreme caution. We are practicing social distancing and masks are required. Services will continue to be 35-40 minutes in length so as not to keep people in an enclosed area for too long. Some updates to the conference regulations during worship include the following:

- Children over two can attend worship if they wear a mask.
- Health Acknowledgement Forms are required for all who attend worship. Now a poster is available that asks the same questions and Pastor Jessie can record your responses on the spot if you forget your form.

On August 4, our Pastor Parish Relations Committee met via Zoom and decided the following:

- In person worship will be suspended if there are 10 or more COVID-19 cases in Rappahannock County from Sunday morning through Friday morning. Pastor Jessie will watch these numbers each week and send this information through a phone tree and via email on Friday afternoon if closing needs to occur. At this point we would go to online worship only.
- If anyone who attends worship at one of our three churches tests positive for COVID after attending worship, we will suspend worship for two weeks following the CDC guidelines and go to online worship.
- We will be installing wi-fi at Sperryville UMC and hope to be able to live stream worship starting in September.

We hope these measures will keep us all safe and connected as more will be able to participate in worship once we have live-streaming capabilities. I understand many are still not ready to come back to worship, so I will be visiting with those who are comfortable and calling those not able to attend worship so that we can all stay connected.

God has still been moving and offering us new life during the pandemic. We have enjoyed our summer intern, Susan Pullin from Wesley Theological Seminary. She has led worship each week, preached two times, led a weekly Bible study, wrote letters to the congregation, as well as wrote a weekly column for our newsletter. Susan has voiced a call to

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Children's Ministry, and we are excited for her as she continues to answer God's call. Her last Sunday with us will be on August 23, 2020 and will offer her a special commissioning as she goes forth to serve.

On a sad note we have lost five members since the pandemic began (none as a result of the pandemic). I ask that you continue to keep the following families in prayer during their time of grief: the families of Mary Jenkins, Charles Whorton, Charles Foster, Rodney Vest Sr. and Ce Pike. We are all thankful for these saints of the church and will celebrate them again on All Saints Sunday, November 1. There will be a Memorial Service for our charge lay leader, Ce Pike, on Friday October 30 at 10:00 A.M. at Sperryville United Methodist Church. We are all thankful for Ce's faithful service in leading the charge. From this point until our charge conference, Jeff Thompson will serve as the lay leader of Sperryville UMC and our charge lay leader. We are thankful to Jeff for taking on this important role.

We have also had some changes in our church treasurers. Thank you to Candy Lamma and Sandy Antony for taking on these important roles. Below you will find the most up to date information on where to send your tithes, gifts, and offerings when you are unable to attend church:

You can send in your gifts to the treasurer of the church you attend or you can give online at <https://rappumc.breezechms.com/give/online>.

Flint Hill UMC:  
Attn: Candy Lamma  
PO BOX 368  
Flint Hill, VA 22627

Willis Chapel UMC:  
Attn: Bonnie Hahn  
48 Homestead Knoll Ln.  
Huntly, VA 22640

Sperryville UMC:  
Attn: Sandy Antony  
488 Long Mountain Rd.  
Washington, VA 2274

Finally, I ask for your prayers. Pray for the many students returning to school this fall. This week we lift our college students: Tyler Johnson, Alyson Fox, Evan Fox, Lauren Fox, and Brett Midkiff and school teachers/staff/administrators: Alan and Sue Ann Fox, Candy Lamma, Amy Midkiff, Sherry Burke Doane, and Sandy Thompson. Pray also for our charge children who will be returning to school. May God continue to bring new life to us as we continue to worship God in body and in spirit.

God bless,

*Pastor Jessie Colwell*

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