

*Rappahannock Charge United Methodist Church*



*Rev. Jessie Colwell*  
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June 9, 2020

Dear RappUMC Family,

Grace and peace be with you! I hope this letter finds you well and in good health. It has been a long time since we have been together (March 8) and I know we are all anxiously awaiting the time when we can worship together in person again. Last week Governor Northam allowed Virginia to move into stage two of the Reopening Plan. Our Bishop, Sharma Lewis, responded and wrote a letter to all Virginia clergy announcing that in-person worship could resume on Sunday, June 21, 2020.

Our Pastor Parish Committee and Church Council Chairs met with me on Monday, June 8, to discuss our charge plan for reopening. We have decided to do a soft reopening. This means that we will reopen one church only while we are in stage two. We will resume in person worship on Sunday June 21, 2020 at Flint Hill UMC at 10:00 A.M.. We will gather for worship at Flint Hill UMC each week during stage two. Once we move into stage three of the governor's Reopening Plan all three churches will open at their normal times.

I want to be clear that if you are not ready to come back to church yet, please do not feel pressured. I understand that there are people that may have a pre-existing health condition that makes them vulnerable to the Corona Virus, and that we have caregivers that are caring for vulnerable people. I will continue to offer a weekly online option and send sermons to those who do not have access to the internet.

The Virginia Conference UMC has put several procedures in place to make sure we will remain safe in worship as we are in stage two. They are mandated by the Bishop and are as follows:

- If you are sick, stay home.
- Fill out and return the health acknowledgment form (see attached) and bring it with you to worship on June 21, 2020. **This form must be turned in for you to attend worship.**
- No person under seven is allowed to attend worship in this stage.
- Facemasks will be required in worship at all times until we move into stage three where they will become optional. All churches will have face masks available to those who do not have one.
- Six feet of social distancing is required between families.
- There will be no congregational singing in stage two, but one soloist will be allowed to sing, and musicians will be able to play instruments.
- There will be no in-person communion in stage two. Congregation members will be given packaged communion to take home, but it will be blessed in church.
- There will be no paper bulletin and all paper materials will be removed from the pews.

*Rappahannock Charge UMC*

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- There will be no passing of the peace or fellowship time.
- Offering will be done by drop off only and the plates will not be passed.

May we have patience with one another as we follow these regulations as put forth from the Bishop and her team.

To offer additional ways to connect, I will continue our weekly zoom call/videos each Wednesday at noon. I encourage you to take part in this time of prayer. Also, our intern, Susan Pullin, who will be with us starting on June 21, will be leading a six-week Bible study. I invite you to remain in prayer with me as we start this reopening process. Your safety is of the utmost importance to me. We will be doing a thorough cleaning before we worship together for the first time and each week in between worship services.

I wanted to thank you for your continued gifts and generosity during this time. If you have not had a chance to give, please consider doing so through the information below:

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: Brenda Payne  
340 Dearing Rd.  
Huntly, VA 22640

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

Sperryville UMC:  
Attn: Ce Pike  
465 Old Hollow Rd.  
Sperryville, VA 22740

Please know you have all been in my prayers these past three months and I look forward to seeing you in person soon!

God bless,

Pastor Jessie Colwell

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