



# Mount Gretna United Methodist Church

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Michael S. Remel, Pastor

Marilyn Nolte, Assoc. Pastor

All Members, Ministers

Dear Friends and Members,

It has been a long spring and beginning to the summer. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to completely rethink the way we do worship and ministry here at Mount Gretna United Methodist Church. I thank you all for your continued support of the work and ministries of your church and pray that these will continue.

In March of this year we began producing weekly worship videos that are posted to YouTube each Sunday because of the danger of having in person worship due to COVID-19. I want to take a moment to thank all those who have been instrumental in producing those videos. Rest assured that they will continue as a permanent part of the outreach and ministry of our congregation for the foreseeable future. You can continue to view them by following the links on our church webpage ([www.mtgretnachurch.org](http://www.mtgretnachurch.org)) under the "Worship Videos" tab.

Now that Lebanon county is in the green phase of COVID-19 mitigation, we are beginning to seriously discuss restarting in person worship services once again at both the church and the Campmeeting Tabernacle. It is our hope that these services will start very soon (possibly as soon as August 2). If they do you will receive an email as well as announcements on our webpage as to service times and locations.

The structure of our services, once they resume, will be quite different from what they were before the pandemic began, at least for the foreseeable future; and we will work to implement all precautions recommended by both the CDC and our denomination. Below you will find a list of the precautions that we are preparing to undertake in order to provide the safest possible environment for attendees of our services once they resume.

- Masks will be required at all services and must always be worn.
- We ask attendees to please abstain from physical contact. Instead of handshakes or hugs, we prefer that you practice verbal welcoming with a warm "glad to see you" or "hello."

- We further invite attendees to please not linger before or after services to reduce possible physical contact.
- There will be no greeters at the door and no receiving line at the end of the service in order to reduce physical contact as much as possible.
- The pink slips, that in the past were used for visitors, will now be used for attendance. This is so that we will have a weekly list and contact information for each attendee.
- There will be no ushers receiving offerings. Offering plates and or baskets will be placed at the back of the worship area and members will be invited to place their offerings and attendance slips in these upon exiting the service.
- Family groups/individuals will be asked to keep a 6-foot distance between themselves and other worshipers at all times, especially in the pews.
- There will be no singing. This is in keeping with guidelines that have been set forth by the CDC and our denomination to reduce the possibility of particulate transmission.
- Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the pews to reduce the possibility of contact transmission.
- Communion will be offered using pre-filled individual sealed servings.
- Bulletins will be available for pick up as you enter the worship area.
- There will be no coffee or fellowship times planned before or after services.
- Always use your best discretion as to whether you should attend. Please do not feel obligated to be at church. If you are experiencing any flu or cold-like symptoms, have traveled to any high alert area, or have any reason to believe you may be infected, we encourage you to be proactive in the protection of others and remain home. We are certain that none of us want to be responsible for transmitting this virus to someone who is at increased vulnerability to it.
- Signs will be placed on all bathroom doors and in each of the bathrooms reminding everyone to please wash hands thoroughly before exiting.
- Volunteers will be requested to help clean and prepare worship areas before each service.

It is our hope that following these guidelines will allow us to begin once again to worship in person. At no time should you feel obligated to attend in person if you do not feel comfortable doing so. As stated above, our worship videos will continue, and you are welcome to continue to join us for worship by viewing these videos weekly until you feel comfortable joining us for worship.

If you have any questions you can contact the church office at 717-964-3241 or by emailing us at [mgumc@verizon.net](mailto:mgumc@verizon.net).

Yours in Christ,  
 Pastor Michael Remel  
 Administrative Board Mount Gretna United Methodist Church