



# Galena UMC

## Recovery & ReTurn Report

February 10, 2021 Week #34

### Galena's ReTurn Team

Dale Henze – Chair  
Dennis Irwin  
Charlene Price  
Patricia Allen–Stewart  
Bill & Sherry Marc  
Jay & Hillary Dickerson  
Dave & Judy Biegon  
Karen Hughes  
Darcy Muehliep  
Pastor Catiana McKay

### Weekly Update ... *from Dale*

It's impossible to know how we'll one day look back on this chapter of life known as the 2020 pandemic. We feel certain that the defining characteristics of our church will be perseverance, grace, and faith.

It's been an amazing privilege to meet with our "REOPENING COMMITTEE" weekly for nearly a year now about how to reopen our church safely and with the health and well-being of all of our church and community members in mind. At some point it is our hope that we will soon have a roadmap to reopening.

As I've thought about the image of a roadmap, I've come to realize that it's apt for a number of reasons. First, it's because we have a clear starting point and destination and along the way there will be some expected checkpoints and mile-markers. But also, like any good set of travel plans, there is always the possibility that we'll hit some unanticipated delays or necessary detours on our journey. Because the circumstances around the pandemic

are ever-changing, there may be some unforeseen future developments that will affect our plans and cause us to readjust our route accordingly.

But the good news is, no matter how many tweaks we have to make to our roadmap or if the ETA (estimated time of arrival) is altered, the destination never changes. Our ultimate goal is to have our building open and our missions and ministries resumed, so we can continue to live out our calling to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Of course, if there's one thing we will likely learn in the process of creating this roadmap, it will be that reopening the doors of a church is different than any other business or organization. After all, our ultimate responsibility is not to shareholders, revenues, bottom lines, or profits; it's to God and taking care of God's people.

What that means then, at the very least, is that our guidelines for reopening will have to be shaped by far more than state laws or federal mandates, but by Jesus' greatest commandment to "love God and love your neighbor as yourself."

Because this will be our first-ever attempt at reopening our church doors in the midst of a global pandemic, I am absolutely sure that our plan may be wholly imperfect and wonderfully flawed. But it's in times like this that we are comforted by the words of that ubiquitous, old bumper sticker: "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven." In other words, we wouldn't be anything if it weren't for grace. So perhaps that's one more thing we can decide to practice, embody, and extend throughout the reopening process. In a world that seems to grow more divisive and divided by the day, let's strive to be a church of inexhaustible grace **to one another.**

Little boy to his grandfather: "Grandpa, did you know that God's first name is Andy?"

Grandfather: No, I did not! Are you absolutely certain of that?

Little boy: Yep! It's in Mom's favorite hymn!..... "Andy walks with me. Andy talks with me. Andy tells me

## Medical Tip of the Week ...from Dennis

CORONAVIRUS

### Three Most Dangerous Underlying Conditions for COVID-19

- Obesity (Body Mass Index, BMI > 30)
- Diabetes (with complications such as organ damage)
- High blood pressure (with complications such as heart damage or kidney disease)

In addition to following your doctor's advice on managing your condition and taking standard COVID-19 precautions, doctors offer these tips for especially high-risk patients:

- [Upgrade your mask. Some experts recommend doubling up](#) or choosing an FDA approved KN-95.
- Consider investing in a pulse oximeter, a device that measures blood oxygen saturation. A falling oxygen level can be an early sign that your health is deteriorating.
- If you test positive for the corona virus, ask your doctor if you are a candidate for monoclonal antibodies, a life-saving treatment that can cut hospitalizations among high-risk patients by as much as 70%. Some doctors say not enough people know about the treatment, which must be given before a patient is hospitalized.

Reference: 3 Most Dangerous Underlying Conditions for COVID-19. <https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/>. Accessed 2/6/21.

## Update from the County ...from Jay

Jo Daviess County has administered 2,083 doses of the vaccine, an increase of 579, with 358 people fully vaccinated, an increase of 137. There has been 1.68 percent of the county that has been fully vaccinated, placing Jo Daviess County 85th out of 102 counties in the state.

As of Feb. 5, Jo Daviess County reported 1,555 cases of COVID-19 since last spring. There have been 17 new cases since Feb. 1. Approximately, 1,530 of those are recovered. There have been 24 deaths in the county due to COVID since last March. As of Saturday, Feb. 6, the three highest areas in the county have been 453 cases in the 61036 zip code (Galena), an increase of seven cases since last Saturday; 275 cases in the 61025 zip code (East Dubuque), an increase of nine cases; and 274 cases in the 61085 zip code, which has reported no new cases this week.

## Blessings ... from Pastor Catiana

Wednesday, February 17th, is Ash Wednesday, followed by the 1st Sunday in Lent. You will receive a virtual service (email, Facebook, or mail, to be used at a time that best works for you. During Lent, a time of self-examination and reflection, let each service or time with your church family be a part of life's "roadmap" with God, remembering that "whatever in life is altered, the destination never changes". Thank you, Dale, for your words, "In a world that seems to grow more divisive and divided by the day, let's strive to be a church of inexhaustible grace **to one another.**"

## Notes ...from Charlene ...

If any of you have ideas around our future sanctuary worship, do let us know. "Staying in touch" continues to be the only good thing coming out of this pandemic. In conversations with our members, most still would be uncomfortable attending services in our building at this time. The more we can hold our church family close, the better it feels, whether it's by phone calls or notes. We really are all in this together.

**Remember: Do No Harm ... Do Good ... Stay in Love with God!**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*