



Galena UMC Recovery & ReTurn Report

February 3, 2021 Week #33

Galena's ReTurn Team

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Weekly Update ... from Dale

When will the Galena United Methodist Church reopen?

A holy longing

For believers in Christ the question of when church gatherings will resume is one of longing and expectation because our faith is not a private faith. God created us for community and He grows us and encourages us in community. We are like the Psalmist who asked when he could come and appear before God in the temple with others (Psalm 42:2).

Preparation over prediction

Because news about the pandemic is constantly shifting, we have been focused much more on preparation than prediction. We do not know when we will resume gatherings but we are prepared for several scenarios or “plays” that we will run when we are able to do so.

Different plays we will run

defense shows them, we will call different plays based on the cultural context we find ourselves in. As we call a new play, the former plays may still be occurring. This is important because we realize that people in our faith community will have varying levels of comfort in returning to gatherings, so at some point we will be running all plays to serve people at their comfort level. We plan to continue to provide digital worship services and resources for people in their homes.

Gatherings at Galena United Methodist Church

When we are able to gather again physically for worship, we envision using multiple venues during worship service time (possibilities include outside worship, worship in the sanctuary, etc.) with live worship and a broadcast message to each venue. We don't know when, but we will be ready to gather! Some of the “plays” may be called at the same time (such as church in the park and church gatherings at the church). And we will use all these opportunities to serve you and serve the people of the Galena United Methodist Church.



Blessings ... from Pastor Catiana

Fascinating Dale! Thank you! I don't know a lot about football, but I do understand and connect what you've described, with living into being an ADAPTABLE body of Christ- the church. This certainly applies to the revised structure we're praying to transition to - structure that today, best serves the mission & ministry of the congregation. Friends, see you on ZOOM or call me!

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

Update from the County ...*from Jay*

- The Jo Daviess County Health Department continues to sign up residents for the vaccine online. Because of supply, the health dept. goes on a week-by-week basis for doses.
- Although all doses have been allocated, Hartig Drug is taking names on a vaccine waiting list. Sign-up is not happening in stores, but at hartigdrug.com.

As of Monday, Feb. 1, Jo Daviess County has reported 1,538 cases since last spring. There have been 24 new cases since Jan. 25. Approximately 1, 480 of these cases have recovered. There have been 24 deaths in the county due to COVID since last March.

As of Saturday, Jan. 30, the three highest areas in Jo Daviess County have been 446 cases in the 61036 zip code (Galena), an increase of one case since last Saturday.; 274 cases in the 61085 zip code (Stockton), an increase of one; and 266 cases in the 61025 zip code (East Dubuque), an increase of 12.

Jo Daviess County has administered 1,504 doses of the COVID vaccine, an increase of 618, with 222 people fully vaccinated, an increase of 110. There has been 1.04 percent of the county that has been fully vaccinated.

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

You can reuse N95/KN95 masks safely



CORONAVIRUS

While N95 and KN95 masks are designed for single use, they can be re-used safely if you follow certain precautions. With the new variants being found in Illinois and the vaccination program going at a snail's pace, it is important to have an effective masking strategy. N95/KN95 masks are the best and safest choice. The easiest and safest way to reuse the masks is to have several and cycle them knowing that all the virus will be inactive after 72 hours at normal temperature and humidity. If you have at least four masks and wear no more than one each day, simple rotation will do the trick. If you need to use more than one each day then you will need more masks in the rotation or disinfect between uses. A safe and practical way to disinfect N95/KN95 masks is to heat them in a regular oven at 160 degrees for at least 30 minutes. A group at Stanford studied various ways to disinfect N95/KN95 masks and found that this simple method works and can be done at least 20 times without affecting the filtration efficiency, fit, or ease of breathing through the mask. Others have found similar results but recommend no more than 2 heating cycles. Personally, I will put five masks in the rotation and re-cycle over the 72-hour minimum time between uses. I will disinfect with heat if I must. The Stanford researchers present some pretty convincing evidence that this is safe and effective. 70% alcohol and washing with soap and water will kill the virus but will also degrade the filtration efficiency of the mask. These methods are not recommended for reusing N95/KN95 masks.

Notes ...*from Charlene* ...

If any of you have thoughts about how we might plan to begin church again sometime in the future, 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.