



Galena UMC

Recovery & ReTurn Report

June 2, 2021 Week #50

Galena's ReTurn Team

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Weekly Update ... from Dale Patience as we “reopen.”

As all of you know, we are currently meeting at recreation park for our Sunday services and most seem to enjoy the opportunity to gather again. Our return committee has met weekly since March of 2020 and have planned for our reopening with caution and concern for our church family as a priority. As most of you know, we began our “park services” on May 23rd and plan to resume meeting in our building again beginning July 11th. When we made our plans and set specific dates, we were unaware of how things would unfold with this “unfriendly” virus.

Please know that we initially set the May 23rd and July 11th dates with the hope that these dates would be comfortable and realistic for our

“reopening”. We now realize that we could possibly have returned to services in our church building sooner; however, we plan to adhere to the July 11th date for two simple reasons: First, it seems that this date does assure safety for all of our people as we plan to gather again in our building. Information about the virus, the vaccines, the variants, etc., seems to continue to change as time progresses. As a result, we still feel that July 11 will assure a very safe environment. Secondly, there is a lot of work and projects being completed in the church building getting it ready for services again. Some of this work will not be completed prior to July 11th. One of the major undertakings is getting all of the equipment and technology ready to continue live streaming all of our services as we continue “post-covid” worship. It seems best to have these projects completed prior to being back in our beautiful sanctuary.

Let patience be one of our virtues as we experience our “reopening and return” together. We desire microwavable patience and tribulation. We want instant coffee, instant oats, instant rice, and immediate results, NOW!

*Do we need to be more like the little boy in the mall? He was at the end of an escalator and he just kept watching the railing as it went round and around.
A security guard came up to him and said, "Son, are you lost?"
He said, "No sir. I am just waiting for my chewing gum to come back."*

Notes ...from Charlene ... As we continue our in-persons gatherings, let us not forget how important our phone calls and notes are. “Staying in touch” truly blesses both the giver and the receiver in all times. Heart connections never grow old. Hold our church family close.

Trustee Report By Dennis

Returning to the Sanctuary

A Call for Help: Getting the Church Ready for Return to In-Person Worship

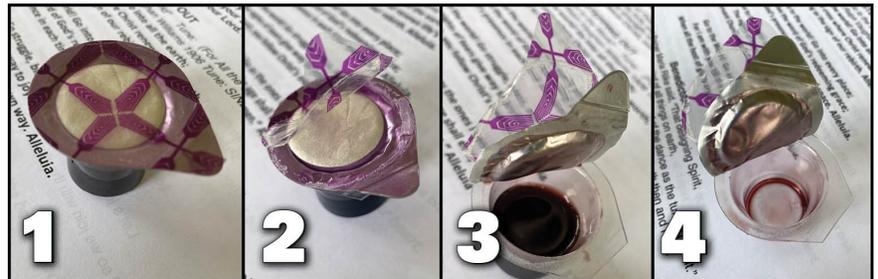
We plan to be back in the sanctuary for the July 11 service. There are things we need to do before then. The ceiling has been repaired. In spite of Tim Droessler's best efforts and the fact that we covered every surface we could with plastic sheeting there is a lot of dust. There is much to do before July 11.

- The carpet in the sanctuary, narthex, and stairs will be cleaned on June 9. A workday is scheduled for Saturday June 5 at 9 AM. Please join us. Bring a bucket, Murphy's Oil Soap, cloths, Pledge, a handheld vacuum if you have one, and anything else that can help clean the walls, pews, and any other accessible surface.
- We need to organize a kitchen crew to thoroughly clean the kitchen before July 11
- We need another crew to clean out the storeroom, mail room, closets, etc. Every space is jammed packed with "stuff". There must be an awful lot of "stuff" that is no longer needed and that could be given away or thrown away.
- There are pictures that need to be hung and spaces that need to be organized

When moving the pews around we found two that need to be repaired. Another fell apart in the middle when we moved it back. Until they are repaired, we cannot use them. They are marked.

Update ...from Jay Communion on June 6th

With meeting in person now a possibility, Communion has changed a little bit. Here's a step-by-step guide to what's going on!



1. The new Communion container is about the size of the small cups you're used to. What's different: There's a Communion wafer also included in the pre-sealed container.
2. To get at the wafer, peel off the thin, clear plastic cover. The wafer is about the size of a dime.
3. There is a second tab to pull back to get to the juice.
4. And we're done! The new Communion cups are about the size of coffee creamer packets.

Food for Thought! Blessings ... from Pastor Catiana

Kay Kotan says many churches embraced online worship out of necessity during the pandemic without deliberate plans for engaging new people through online ministry. Now is the time to consider how to engage new digital worshipers more fully through intentional welcome, relational connections, and opportunities for Christian formation. For these newly gathered people, how do we intentionally relate? How do we offer extravagant hospitality? How do we intentionally try to connect relationally and authentically? Let's talk!

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