



Galena UMC Recovery & ReTurn Report

October 28, 2020 Week #20

Galena's ReTurn Team

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Weekly Update ... from Dale

Everywhere we turn, people are talking about reopening. Should churches simply follow the same guidelines regarding reopening as other institutions? I believe there are practical principles and theological reasons why reopening our churches requires a different kind of thinking. The church should not be looking to sidestep the guidelines. The church should not be simply reacting to what others are doing. The church should lead the way by modeling a method of safety for others to follow.

Our committee has met again this week and as most would likely expect, we do not feel that we are ready for a safe and

responsible physical reopening. Any church, regardless of size and location, can reopen safely and faithfully if it will thoughtfully take its time, adapt, and innovate. Remember, the church has never closed. The church remains open, even as we do not physically gather in our building. All of this so that we might fully love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

To think about.....

This whole sanitation thing!!?!?! I had to buy a second can of Lysol just to sanitize the first can.

Medical Tip of the Week ...from Dennis
Refer to FAQ page 1 for more detailed answer

CORONAVIRUS



Are children immune to this disease? I have seen conflicting reports on TV and in the news. No. Recent studies show that children are being infected with Covid19 at the same rate as adults and have large quantities of virus in their upper airway and nose. Children do not get as sick as adults. But it appears as if they are good spreaders of the virus.

Update from the County ...*from Jay*

GALENA—The COVID-19 death toll in Jo Daviess County increased over the past week, as the Illinois Department of Public Health reported two additional deaths. Seven individuals have died since March of COVID in Jo Daviess County.

As of Monday, Oct. 26, 512 cases have been recorded in the county since March. That is an increase of more than 90 positive cases in the past week.

The county also remained on the state's warning list. The county first made the list at the end of July and has returned five times since.

Notes ...*from Charlene* ... Staying in touch, is a continuing blessing for me and I hope for you when you receive my call! In conversations with our members, I'm finding that most 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.

Blessings ... *from Pastor Catiana*

Friends, each week we review our guidelines and assess our best practices for gathering as the church, the Body of Christ in action. As COVID numbers around Galena and the country rise, we can strengthen and build on our gifts for ministry. There's a lot to do and learn but we can broaden our ideas about worship, study, and gatherings through the use of ZOOM which can connect us in new ways if we allow our selves to take the plunge. For those who are uncomfortable with or do not have internet, we have increased our mailings. Please let us know if you know of someone who needs to be added to our mailings.

This week in Fabiola's message (our District Superintendent) she wrote: "As we approach the end of the year, we feel exhausted by the chaos we've experienced in 2020: anxiety, uncertainty, frustration, fear, etc. In the midst of these challenges, the church continues its mission, and pastors and leaders have started to plan Advent and Christmas. How can we center in God's presence in the midst of all that is going on around us? It's in these moments when I remember God's words through the psalmist, "Be still and know that I'm God." How can we be still? Where has God been more visible during this time?

God's call is to trust in God and stand still, not because of self-made confidence or because we are the most composed person in the face of chaos. We are called to be still because of what we know about God. God is with us, and he will never leave us nor forsake us. Let's focus on him and let him calm our anxieties, fears and frustrations. I encourage you to continue praying for each other."

With God's help we will continue to live out our faith together in surprising new ways! Be assured, updates and connecting information will continue. God bless you and keep you!

Pastor Catiana

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