

“In-Person Worship Services”

By Sue Green



With my kidney donation last December, I needed to be extra-careful beforehand and not catch the Covid. So, I stayed away from the In-Person Worship Services held at Fredsville last fall. Now that I am healed up, I have had the urge to attend worship services in person. However, before I attended my first

in-person service (Ash Wednesday), I was a bit apprehensive about going back to church. Was it safe? I got to thinking that you may be feeling the same way, so I chose the topic of “In-Person Worship Services” for this month’s Q & A.

Q: Is Fredsville having in-person church services now? If so, when did they start?

A: Yes! Fredsville officially reopened on Sunday, January 31 but due to the weather, the January 31, February 7th, and February 14th services were cancelled. The Ash Wednesday service held on February 17 was the first in-service church service held since opening. This service was followed by the Sunday worship service on February 21.

Q: Is it safe to attend church in person?

A: Yes! I felt safer attending these two church services than going to the grocery store. However, if a person does not feel safe attending church in person, please do not go. Therefore, Fredsville is videotaping their services and making them available electronically. 😊

Q: Are other activities being held at the church?

A: Yes! The Quilters are meeting at the church on Thursday mornings and Fancy Fingers met on February 19th. A sack lunch meal was held on Wednesday, February 24th.

Q: Are there modifications being made for these events due to the Covid?

A: Yes! There is no fellowship time after the Sunday, or the Lenten worship services. At the Ash Wednesday service, instead of having Pastor Lisa put the ashes on the parishioners' forehead, we were each given a Q-tip that had been dipped in oil and ashes so we could put the Sign of the Cross on ourselves. The Quilters are not having their usual coffee time in the middle of their quilting and the sack lunch meal was limited to 15 people so everyone could have their own round table to sit at.

Q: Can you sit anywhere in the church?

A: No. Every other row is taped off with blue painter's tape. This is a visual reminder that we cannot sit close together.

Q: Once you are sitting in the pew, can you take your mask off?

A: No. Worshipers are required to keep their masks on. Covid travels through the air. Wearing a mask keeps your germs from traveling to other people.

Q: Can you recite and sing during the church service?

A: Worshipers are asked to recite silently and sing silently. This is difficult for many to do so you may hear others talk and/or sing quietly. Again, Covid travels through the air so talking and singing are discouraged. Singing out loud is especially bad since your germs travel further than the usual 6 feet.

Q: I love to sing the hymns! What can I do so I can sing them?

A: Write down the names of the songs that are sung by Jean Loger/Meridith Sandlin at church. Then, when you get home, "google" the songs. God would love to hear you singing his praises at home! Note: I just "googled" Faith of Our Fathers and What a Friend We Have in Jesus. I easily found the words to both songs, along with different musical artists to sing these hymns with.

Q: Are there groups still meeting via Zoom?

A: Church Council continues to meet via Zoom. The Bible Study on Monday nights with Pastor Lisa is meeting through Zoom, along with the Book Club that Intern Andy leads on Tuesday.

Q: How long before we get back to "normal" at church?

A: We do not know. What we do know is that Pastor Lisa and the Church Council are making decisions to keep people safe from catching the Covid.

Whether you are worshipping in person or at home via Zoom, God is pleased to have you in his presence. Oh, how THANKFUL we can be for the electronic equipment to tape the Sunday and Lenten services, along with the Zoom technology providing the option for worshipping at home! I can say though, it felt AWFULLY GOOD to be back worshipping in person!!!