



March Sermons

March 7
Means of Grace:
Lord's Supper
Luke 24:13-35

March 14
Means of Grace:
Scripture
2 Timothy 3:10-17

March 21
Means of Grace:
Christian
Conferencing
Matthew 18:15-22

March 28
Expensive Palms,
Cheap Crosses
Palm Sunday

In this Issue...

Staff Directory	2
Youth Ministry	2
Healthy Church Cont'd.	3
Children's Ministry	4

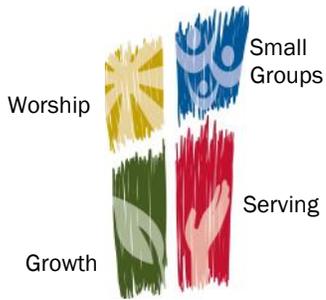
Healthy Church Team Update, March 2021: Vaccines have started and new cases are trending down. Can we worship in person again?

The short answer is not yet, and we still can't say when. To understand why, read on, because it is complicated. We have church members who feel that we should be worshipping in person. We have other church members who feel we should definitely not be worshipping in person.

First, who is making these decisions? The **Healthy Church Team** here at Braddock Street Church. We formed our Healthy Church Team, by order of our Bishop, Sharma Lewis. It is made up of our Church Council Chair, Lay Leader, Trustee Chair, Staff Parish Chair, one of our Parish Nurses, Associate Lay Leaders, Clergy, and Program Staff. We have made a policy for in-person worship for when we are ready. We have also developed policies for any other groups meeting on church property. All of our policies must follow the policies set by the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church in its [Technical Assistance Manual](#). This Technical Assistance Manual was formulated based on the directives of the Virginia Department of Health.

Under these limitations (set by the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church), we are currently allowed to worship in person, provided that there is no singing, no handshaking, no hugging, each person must wear a mask (including pastors), and worshippers need to stay at least 6 feet apart unless they live in the same household. Outdoor in-person worship offerings have fewer limitations, but we are limited by the weather and not having sufficient outdoor space. By our calculations, current regulations would allow 50-75 people in the Sanctuary each Sunday. We would only be able to have one service each week, as the Sanctuary could not be used again until it was thoroughly cleaned. So, the result is that only 10-15% of our normal worshipping congregation would be allowed to worship on a given Sunday. We would have to pre-register each worshipper by some form of lottery system, and the worship experience would still be far from ideal. Our Healthy Church Team has decided that allowing so few to have a less than ideal experience was not worth the risk of infecting any in our church and/or spreading the virus beyond our church. As much as we miss being with one another as a community of faith, and we all miss it desperately, our Healthy Church Team feels that our Sunday morning online worship experience is the best way to go until things get better.

Continued on Page 3



Worship

Small Groups

Serving

Growth

Staff Directory

Ministers

The BSUMC Congregation

Lead Pastor

Rev. Kirk Nave

kirk@braddockstreetumc.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings

ahnnaalise@braddockstreetumc.org

Visitation Pastor

Rev. Frank Sherman

frank@braddockstreetumc.org

Minister of Music

George Amos

george@braddockstreetumc.org

Organist

Bill Baber

bill@braddockstreetumc.org

Director of Youth Ministries

Kristin Beall

kristin@braddockstreetumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries

Patty Singhass

patty@braddockstreetumc.org

Budget & Finance Administrator

Rachel BeDell

rachel@braddockstreetumc.org

Worship Video Arts

David Titus

david@braddockstreetumc.org

Building Superintendent

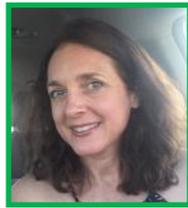
Rick Mabe

rick@braddockstreetumc.org

Secretary

Deya Hamilton

deya@braddockstreetumc.org



Director of Youth Ministries

Kristin Beall

Youth Ministry



Youth group continues to adhere to the healthy church team guidelines of 10 of less with masks and social distance as well as keeping many events virtual. Please make sure you are receiving emails from Kristin for updates and any special events. Kristin@braddockstreetumc.org

Youth Calendar:

Senior Highs continue to meet at Tropical Smoothie on Pleasant Valley from 7-7:30 AM on Wednesdays for smoothies and short devotion



Sunday - March 7 and 21

BLAST in person small group Bible Study in Room 214

Sunday - March 14 and 28

BLAST in person small groups games and activities - Middle School in Fellowship Hall, Senior High in room 214

Sunday - March 7, 14, 21, 28

BLAST Virtual Zoom small group online games (email Kristin for link)

6:30-7:30 PM



BIG LOUD AWESOME SPIRIT THING!



When will it be safe enough to begin worshipping in person? Our Healthy Church Team recently decided to use tools provided by the Center for Disease Control to help us answer that question. On February 12, the CDC updated their guidance to help local schools make decisions. It helps measure which communities have high to low transmission of the coronavirus. While a room full of worshippers is different than a classroom, we feel this is a helpful tool. The table below is from the CDC website.

New Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19* (reported over 7 days) (from CDC’s New Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation)

Indicator	Lowest Transmission	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days**	Category no longer exists. It has been merged into one low transmission (blue) category.	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive in the past 7 days***		<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

You can track where our communities are [here on the CDC website](#). As of this writing, Frederick County had 147 new cases/100,000 in the last week, and a 5.95% positive testing rate. Winchester is at 107 new cases /100,000 per week, and at a 7.65% positivity rate. So, we are currently experiencing high transmission rates in our communities. The good news is that things are quickly getting better, but we are still a long way from being ready for in-person worship. And we must remember that new strains of the virus are developing, which might change the situation again.

Our Healthy Church Team has agreed that when Frederick County and the City of Winchester are both considered to be Low Transmission (blue) communities (in both new cases/week and positive test results) for three straight weeks, we plan to begin worshipping in person, within the limitations of the Technical Assistance Manual of the Virginia Conference and the directions of the Virginia Department of Health. If our communities are no longer low transmission communities, we will cease in-person worship. When our communities reach the Moderate (yellow) levels of transmission, our Healthy Church Team will meet again to reevaluate the situation. We also agreed that if the Virginia Conference and Health Department allow larger numbers to meet in non-worship groups (currently 10 people or less), we will allow that to occur.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. We want you to know that even though we are still not offering worship in person, we are continually evaluating the status of the pandemic in our community, with the health of our church members and community being the most important thing.

Thanks to the hundreds of people who worship with us each week on Facebook Live, and thanks to everyone’s faithful support to our church that is keeping our many ministries going, even when we can’t meet face to face!

Pastor Kirk





Children's Ministry



Director of Children's Ministries
Patty Singhass

Children Sunday Small Groups

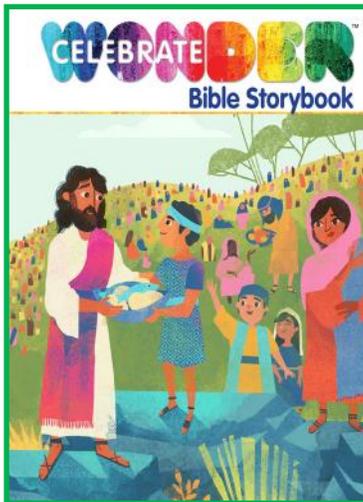
In March, all the kids' groups will begin the Spring Celebrate Wonder curriculum. We will continue to meet online on Zoom by age groups each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM.

Celebrate Wonder is a curriculum that honors the spiritual life of children. Celebrate Wonder will engage children in open-ended exploration and inquiry of the Bible. Celebrate Wonder serves as a biblical guide to help children make meaning for their lives. This curriculum seeks to deepen children's faith formation and to create a safe space for children to ask big questions and claim their spiritual identity as children of God.

Contact patty@braddockstreetumc.org if you have not yet signed up to be on our email loops for Zoom.

March Kids K-5th grade in-person group will be on Sunday, March 28, 2021, from 10:00—11:00 AM.

Palm Sunday Celebration!



K-5th We will keep you posted of any changes as we go forward.

BSUMC Vacation Bible School Plans-2021. Watch for more details in the April—May newsletter.



Note: If you have any changes in your address, cell phone, or e-mail, please contact the office.

Thank you!

