

August 7, 2020

Upper Bermudian Lutheran Parish
4200 Carlisle RD
Gardners, Pa 17324

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

The joint council of the Upper Bermudian Lutheran Parish met Thursday, August 6 to discuss when and how we will reopen the churches.

We thought it best to do outdoor services due to the restrictions on indoor meetings. On August 16, 2020 there will be a 9 am morning service outside at Ground Oak and a 7 PM service outside at Mt Zion.

Please bring your lawn chairs so we will not have to sanitize chairs.

If the weather is inclement the services will be cancelled. There will be no inside option.

If you are not feeling well or have been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 please stay home until feeling better or the 2-week time frame has passed.

We ask that attendees sit together by family unit with at least 6 ft in between you and other families or individuals.

Guidelines

1. Although we recommend that you plan not to use the restrooms, the unisex bathroom in GO and in MZ's ground floor will be available if absolutely necessary.
2. We recommend that masks be worn upon arrival and leaving and when moving around, such as trips to the restroom. Once seated, it is up to each individual's discretion and comfort level whether to keep the mask on while sitting quietly. We do recommend that you do replace the mask whenever you are speaking parts of the service.
3. There will be no sharing of the peace with contact.
4. Offering plates will be placed at the pavilion so that you may contribute upon arriving / leaving.
5. We will be using individual disposable units to observe the Sacrament of Holy Communion. These individual units will be placed at the pavilion for each attendee to pick up upon arrival. In the service, Pastor will invite everyone to hold up their pre-packaged wafer and cup of grape juice to be consecrated during the words of institution ("For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes").
6. After much discussion and debate, we have decided that we will be making a joyful noise unto the Lord with singing. This may involve a soloist or duet singing, (we need volunteers for this) or the congregation singing with everyone facing the same direction (no choir performing facing the congregation).

7. And last, we recognize that with the long separation people will want to catch up with what has been happening in each other's lives and the world around. We ask that socializing be done outside the building following recommended social distancing guidelines (minimum 6 ft separation).

There will be no Joint Services at this time to enable social distancing.

There will be no Sunday School at this time.

Schedule for initial Re-opening worship services at the Upper Bermudian Lutheran Parish.

August 16	9 AM Ground Oak	7 PM Mt Zion
August 23	9 AM Mt Zion	7PM Ground Oak
August 30	9 AM Ground Oak	7 PM Mt Zion
September 6	9 AM Mt Zion	7PM Ground Oak
September 13	9 AM Ground Oak	7 PM Mt Zion

The Joint Council meets again on Thursday, September 3, 2020 to discuss further changes as we move into the fall. If there are any changes that you feel would be in the best interests of the church at that point, please let a council member know or feel free to attend the meeting.

Members will be notified of any further changes.

Thanks for your patience and understanding during this trying time.

May God continue to bless each and every one and keep you in his loving care.

Cindy Hogue
Joint council president