



September 7, 2021

Dear Friends of Good Samaritan UMC,

We've been planning for a return to in-person worship and the time has arrived starting with Rally Day on Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 10:00 am. And you're invited! There are some distinct modifications to worship due to the pandemic: while we will enjoy music, we will not have congregational singing for now (this week's worship features two pre-recorded choir anthems as well as live orchestral music); while we will pass the peace during worship, we will do that while remaining in place; and instead of passing offering plates, we will have them available as you exit the sanctuary. All of these precautions are based on Minnesota Annual Conference, MN Department of Health and CDC guidelines, as well as recommendations outlined in the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan designed specifically for us by a group of our members. In addition to the above modifications to worship, we remind you that face masks and distancing between households is required inside the building. Hand sanitizer stations are also readily available.

Please note that we will celebrate blessing of the backpacks during Children's Time, after which the children will head outside near the Gaga pit to decorate their backpack tags and have them laminated. So bring your backpack if you wish to have it blessed! Adults – there will be supplies for you as well to decorate a backpack tag after worship and have it laminated for your work, school, workout bag or crafting tote.

We are limited for the time being to 100 participants in the pews during Sunday morning worship. We're asking all attendees to pre-register here to ensure space for you: <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/5dd5fbc7-a1c5-4401-a4b9-aa580f4e0453>. The sign-up sheet will be available online until noon on Saturday. A nursery is available upon request, with registration deadline for that on Wednesday. Note that this registration process allows you to sign up your whole family at one time. It also allows you to help a friend or family member with their registration if they do not have access to the internet. For assistance with the registration process, please contact [dandy@good.org](mailto:dandy@good.org).

After worship on Rally Day, we plan to enjoy fellowship outside in the upper parking lot. This after-worship fellowship will feature music by Homeward Bound, ice cream provided by Ben and Jerry's (four flavors, including one dairy-free option), along with fellowship and conversation. You do not need to RSVP for after-worship fellowship outside. If you're not comfortable attending worship inside at this time, please watch worship online at home and come over afterwards for the outdoor festivities starting around 10:45 am or so. We'd love to see you!

Here is a reminder of the basic precautions related to COVID-19 and keeping Good Samaritan safe. Please refrain from coming if any of the following apply to you:

- In the past 14 days, been in close contact with (or shared a household with) a person with symptoms of (or confirmed) COVID-19
- In the past 14 days, been in a large group where social distancing was not observed
- A cough, shortness of breath or sore throat
- A fever in the past 48 hours
- A new loss of smell or taste
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours

We recognize a number of Good Samaritans are not yet ready to return in-person. Online worship remains, so we hope to see you virtually at 10:00 at <https://www.facebook.com/Good-Samaritan-UMC-354920125243>, or at <https://good.org/watch/sermons/>. You are welcome whenever the time is right! For others, we hope you will share in the joy of returning to in-person worship starting this Sunday – and we looking forward to seeing you soon!

Peace,

*Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

Rev. Carol Zaagsma  
Pastor