

FUMC Worship & In-Gathering Update: December 16, 2020

Dear Church Family,

On Monday, December 14, Bishop Mueller (Arkansas United Methodist Bishop) held a webinar with Covid-19 updates and a new tool for determining the safety of gathering in person for worship or events. Check out the webinar here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGLINxwp1J4>

In light of the new information, the Executive Council has unanimously made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship and gatherings at the church as of 12/15/20. This includes worship, Sunday school, Boy Scouts, youth group, Chancel choir, adult handbells, etc. The church office will remain open, and our food ministries will continue. This was a disheartening decision to make as we have just recently resumed in-person worship in the sanctuary.

The decision was based on new guidance released by Bishop Mueller. Check out the calculating tool offered by the conference Covid-19 response team here:

<https://arumc.org/covid19/dashboard/> and the website with more info her:
<https://covidactnow.org/?s=1445408> (Choose Arkansas and Drew County).

Thankfully, there have been no COVID-19 outbreaks that originated in a United Methodist Church in the state of Arkansas.

Specific worship information for FUMC Monticello:

Sunday, December 20: online worship service will be live streamed at **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

Thursday, December 24: online communion only service at **5:00 pm**
(communion sacraments will be available for pick up on Dec. 23)

online Christmas Eve service will be live streamed at **6:00 pm**

Sunday, December 27: online worship service will be live streamed at **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

Our goal is to responsibly keep everyone safe and to do no harm. Thank you for your understanding, patience, and support. We will be monitoring the local numbers, and as soon as they allow, we will restart in-person gatherings/worship. We look forward to a special online Christmas Eve service!

Merry Christmas and May God Bless You All,

*Dr. Justin Atkins
Stephanie Brown
LeAnne Burch*

*Rev. Lori Fallon
Paul Griffin
Jack Lassiter*

*Rev. Mark Norman
Ray Ryburn*

*Julie Smith
Mike Stephenson*