

## **A Letter from Your Regathering Team**

Dear St. Paul Friends,

Since our last update, our Regathering Team has met numerous times to discuss the decisions which have been made and look ahead with much hope. Our goal was first to craft a solid plan, which we believe we have accomplished based on safety guidelines for congregations. These processes are extremely similar to what our neighboring churches have set up for their congregations as well.

Early in July, our Regathering Team and volunteer ushers created a video to introduce our congregants and visitors to the new processes of indoor worship during this stage of COVID19. Please visit our website [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org) to view the video.

As there has been a regional spike in the numbers of cases in recent days, we are now meeting weekly to talk about how to best be the church in this particular phase. We are wrestling with the timing of our regathering inside the sanctuary for worship. This is where our congregation's opinions matter. You will be asked to answer survey questions on attending worship in our sanctuary. Some will be contacted through email and others through phone calls. We ask that you take time to answer these questions with your honest views.

Our outdoor Sunday evening service, which began on July 12, has been a wonderful way to bring together our congregants. By moving the service to First Street, we are able to receive the best shade that summer has to offer, and this makes the experience

much cooler than worship in our parking lot. We will now be hosting this outdoor worship service until at least August 30, and we thank our Worship Team, staff, and volunteer musicians for providing a service that can connect us to one another and God.

We will continue to stream worship - both Sunday morning and Sunday evening services - on Facebook Live which you can find at [https:// www.facebook.com/stpauluccbelleville](https://www.facebook.com/stpauluccbelleville). The services will be made available on YouTube and through our website [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org). As always, the Sunday morning worship service will be available on Jubilee 690AM at 9am and 9pm on Sundays.

Due to a variety of factors including safety and financial viability, our Mother's Day Out (MDO) program will not resume in the Fall 2020. The earliest that the program will reopen is January 2021. The special MDO Reopening Team will meet again in mid-October to begin discussing the possibility of beginning the program in ways that are healthy for the children, their families, our staff, and the entire church. Please read MDO Director Rachel Budko's letter that is in this month's OSP.

Thank you to everyone who has continued their offerings during this season and all who have participated in the many virtual meetings and gatherings we have hosted on Zoom! We still host Zoom Fellowship on Sundays from 10-11am and will be resuming Wednesday Zoom Social Hour from 5-6pm each week.

Just as we mentioned in the first letter to you, part of the process means trial and error as we make progress, taking steps forward and maybe a few back or sideways, knowing that we are still moving in the direction of being together. We know that God's grace is with us in this process. Please feel free to reach out to any or all of us with questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on the survey and pray that we can faithfully follow God's intentions for St. Paul UCC during this season of our congregation's life.

Blessings,

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