

THE BELWOOD CHARGE

A United Methodist Charge



5701 Fallston Rd.
Lawndale, NC 28090

Dear Belwood Charge,

Friends, this has been an interesting time. Our lives have completely changed. In this time God has been good. Our Lord has been active within our community. I have been thankful to see the Spirit of God found in volunteers who have delivered hundreds of meals to students all over upper Cleveland county. The Church has come together in new ways. People have been praying for one another through text messages and phone calls. We have seen drive thru party celebrations. We have had fruitful virtual worship.

In this time we have been in great prayer and we have spent time gathering information. As a Pastor Parish Relationship Committee (PPRC), we have discerned a plan to move forward in reopening the charge. There will be three phases to our reopening. We will continue to consult experts during each step within our reopen. Within this letter you will see what each phase consists of.

Phase 1:

On the Sunday, after the Stay at Home Order is lifted in North Carolina, we will have our first *Tailgate Church*. The proposed Sunday of *Tailgate Church* is May 10, 2020. *Tailgate Church* will resemble Drive-in churches. We will meet at 10 am as a charge. When meeting all people will remain in their car, and we will have worship in the parking lot of the church. One cannot leave their car during *Tailgate Church*.

During phase 1 we will not have Sunday School. We ask for no one to enter into the church building and for all people to remain in their car. Those who will be taking up the offering will be wearing face mask. During the offering we ask that no one touches the offering plate.

Worship schedule:

- May 10: Kadesh
- May 17: Knob Creek
- May 24: St. Peter's
- May 31: Kadesh

Phase 2:

After consulting with public health experts in Cleveland county the PPRC will vote to enter into this second phase. In Phase 2 we will re-enter into the church building. While in the building we will maintain social distancing. We will not yet reopen Sunday School. The rooms for Sunday School are small and are not suitable for social distancing.

Phase 2 will look like “bubble church.” Households will remain in their bubbles. Each pew will be set up for household units to sit together but remain 6 feet from other household units. We will have certain pews that are blocked off in order to maintain social distance. We ask for people to drop off their offering into the plates when entering into the sanctuary. When we Pass the Peace of Christ we ask for you to remain in your pew and wave to your neighbors and extend God’s love. When we have Holy Communion it will be done in a sterile manner, and we will not approach the altar as a community.

Church worship will return to the normal schedule: at 9 am Knob Creek will have worship, Kadesh at 10 am, and St. Peter’s at 11 am.

Phase 3:

We will reopen Sunday School. Each church will vote on how to reopen ministries and events. Throughout this phase we will implement social distancing measures.

Friends, we ask for your prayers during this time of reopening. More information will be coming. We as a committee believe the Spirit has been in this discernment process. If you have any questions concerning these phases please contact pastor Brian at (919)609-5943.

Peace be with you,

The Rev. Brian Elwell