



The Good News

June 2020

*Our Doors may be closed, but we, the people, are the church!
There are many opportunities for you to share your talents.*



The masks are for NW AR Children's Hospital in Springdale. Andrea Myane has a contact there and asked if our sewing circle could help out. There were 8 of us who sewed about 120 masks. Those who helped are: Judy Bilyeu, Verna Bottjen, Barbara Brooks, Jeneda Mickelson, Darleen O'Brien, Co Ellen Sterwald, Candy Stickney, and Nita Wallace.



Keith has a new mower!



Weldon is sporting a new beard



Bob & Artie



You, too, can lead a mid-week devotional



Join a Zoom Bible study



So proud of our youngest graduates!!



Ashdon leads a virtual yoga class



Knooking with Kenny on Friday nights

Broc shares his music



Please join us for worship every Sunday right in your own home!

9:30am on our website at fumcbellavista.com or on facebook facebook.com/fumcbv or ustream.tv or fumcbellavista.com/livestream OR 11:00am Sunday & Wednesday mornings you can catch a broadcast of the service on ATT U-Verse and Cox channel 222.



Glimpses of Grace

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

I came across a quote on Facebook on May 15th, and it sparked the following post for me. I have received a few requests that I make it be my newsletter article for this month, so here it is!

“If a choir is only about singing and performing – there will be no choir for a while. If choir is about teaching and learning, growing, connecting, community, cultural exploration and transmission, and innovating – we will find a way to have choir.” -Kellie Walsh

From the time I can remember existing, I sang. I sang by myself. I sang in countless choirs. I sang in highly selective choirs. I sang in chapels and cathedrals all around the world. All of my life, I have sung.

3 months ago, before we were in quarantine/socially distant, I wondered about this - Singing. Singing in worship... Singing on Broadway, singing on the street corner to try to pay a little more on rent... singing at the 5 concerts we had tickets for this summer, singing The Great Thanksgiving, singing ...

And now? The science field has finally spoken loud and clear: singing, yelling, anything louder than a normal speaking voice, requires more air and therefore will carry droplets farther than 6 feet. 12 feet is safe. 18 feet is safer.

Yet... singing is the first musical instrument most of us learn. Even if all we ever do is sing in the shower! Psalm 150 says, “make a joyful noise unto the Lord! ... Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!” (NRSV)

Singing is like breathing to me. Ironically, trained singers know that proper breathing is the key to good singing. That isn't lost on me. So as I help guide our church back to worship, how can we not sing, yet still make a joyful noise? How will worship still feel like worship without congregational singing? I can hardly wrap my head around it.

Yet... Psalm 150 says to use lute and harp and trumpet, dance and tambourine; strings and pipe; and cymbals—a noisy, clanging cymbal. I was recently challenged on my view of scripture and if it was merely a history textbook, a book of mythology, whether it was inspired or written by God, and tonight... tonight, I say that it is the Living Word of God. Who knew when Psalm 150 was written that in 2020 AD we would need other methods to praise the Lord? Who? Oh yeah, God.

Besides, anyone who has ever participated in choir will tell you, it's a whole lot more than singing that makes a choir, a choir. It's connection in a way that only the other people singing with you can understand. And sometimes, when you're so connected and so perfectly in tune, notes that no one is singing can be heard, and a mystical, spiritual moment happens.

Don't worry. I'll still sing in the shower, in my office, in my mom-van, in my house, and I'll likely step into the Sanctuary when no one else is around and lift my voice. (And then I'll clean the surface sitting 12-15 feet in front of me!)

Blessings, *Rev. Jeanne*

EMERGENCY VITAL INFORMATION FORMS are available in the office. There have been several instances where it was necessary for the church to contact family members and we had no contact information. **PLEASE** fill out one of these forms and return it to the office. You will find one included with this newsletter. The information will be kept on file for the use of the pastors only. If we already have your information but it has not been updated lately, please fill out a new form to make sure what we have is current. Thank you to those who have taking the time to do this and have sent them in.

For pastoral emergencies, please call and leave a message at the office (479-855-1158). The messages are checked often during the day and are forwarded to the pastors.



JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor

Finding Purpose

We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but GOD's purpose prevails.

Proverbs 19:21 (MSG)

So here we are still sheltered in place. What has it been, friends, 10 weeks now? So in our current normal, whatever that might be, we might ask ourselves, I ask myself and ask you, 'Have I lost my purpose during this time of isolation; have you lost your purpose?'

Maybe you typically volunteer at the hospital or at your grade-schooler's classroom at least one day each week. Maybe you regularly meet a friend at your favorite local restaurant for lunch or some downtime after work. Maybe you have been furloughed and the time in your job, accomplishing the tasks of your work and being with co-workers just doesn't happen as it once did. Maybe home schooling has come to an end for the summer and you are no longer 'the teacher'. I normally drive to Bella Vista to be at the church, helping in ministry face-to-face, up-close-and-personal with all of you. Right now, none of us can do these things as we once did. Keeping ourselves and others safe from the virus prevents it. We must respect the health of others and continue to practice the safety guidelines that have been given to us by our Bishop and our Governor.

As we sit in the moment, maybe in our rocking chair, maybe at our computer or iPad, maybe in the backyard as the children play, we might be thinking 'now what?' 'Now what am I going to do?' In today's culture of busy-ness, we are not used to being in the moment, to finding purpose as it comes to us step by step.

I think that is why a recent devotional from *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young spoke to me. Sarah writes these devotionals as if Jesus were speaking heart-to-heart with us and this one speaks to finding purpose in the moment. Let me share some of it with you:

'I am your Lord! Seek Me as Friend and Lover of your soul, but remember that I am also King of kings – sovereign over all. You can make some plans as you gaze into the day that stretches out before you, but you need to hold those plans tentatively, anticipating that I may have other ideas. The most important thing to determine is what to do right now. Instead of scanning the horizon of your life, looking for things that need to be done, concentrate on the task before you and the One who never leaves your side. Let everything else fade into the background. This will unclutter your mind, allowing Me to occupy more and more of your consciousness.'

My hope and prayer for all of us as we continue to shelter in place and as we may soon begin to step back into the world of busy-ness, my hope is that we will continue to hold this message in our hearts, this message from *Jesus Calling* of staying in the moment in the Lord's purpose.

Blessings, *Pastor Brenda*

Young, Sarah, *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence*, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2013, May 16, p. 143

Friends of Christ small study group has tentatively set a date of June 22nd to return to a meeting of some sort, dependent upon the guidelines issued for our Church. During this time apart we have been participating in a telephone "keep in touch" ministry, whereby each member is assigned a "Hope Buddy" from our group to stay in contact, share scripture, happenings in their life, or prayer.

We are currently studying the book "Unshakable Hope" by Max Lucado. The "Hope" piece is easy to wrap your spirit around, the "Unshakable" piece is stretching our spirits!! Great Read!!!

Love to all, Friends of Christ



OUR FAMILY

Each month this space is used to tell about the people who are part of our church family. If you know of a graduation, community recognition, someone moving away or moving in, whatever the rest of the church might like to know to keep up with folks, let me know so I can include the information in these pages. Send your information to Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at brenda@fumcbellavista.com or 479-855-1158.

MILESTONES

Eunice Truman – celebrated her 101st birthday on May 13th. She is our oldest church member and is a resident of Jamestown Health and Rehab in Rogers. You can send cards to 2001 Hampton Place, #510, Rogers, AR 72758.



Happy Forever Family

Jeremy and Jenni McIntyre are just overjoyed to share that their beautiful Lilah officially became their daughter on Wednesday, May 27th. What a blessing for all of them ~ lift prayers of thanksgiving!!

IN MEMORIUM

Melba Brown – passed away at Brookdale Nursing Home in Leawood, KS on Wednesday, April 29. She and her husband Jud (Donald) have been members with us since 2011, but have been unable to be with us because of Melba's Alzheimer's disease. Melba loved to sing in our choir and was missed once that was no longer possible. A small family gathering was held on May 7 in Leavenworth, KS, followed by her interment at the National Cemetery in Fort Leavenworth. Cards can be sent to Jud at 2 Fareham Lane, BV 72715. Please keep Jud and all of Melba's family in your prayers in this time of loss.



Jan Shaw – passed away in Auburn, NE on Monday, April 27th. She had been battling health issues for about 3 ½ years. Jan and her husband Bob, had moved to Nebraska to be close to family after being a part of our church since 1999. Bob shared that he and Jan had been sweethearts for

75 years and have fond memories of their friends in Bella Vista. Please keep Bob and his family in your prayers. Cards can be sent to 510 Alden Drive, Auburn NE 68305.

Deb Saalfeld - passed away suddenly Wednesday, May 27, at Mercy Hospital in Rogers. Deb had entered the hospital on Monday, 25th, with a fractured pelvis after a fall at home. Wednesday morning, she suffered cardiac arrest and passed away. Deb joined our church family in



2005. She has been very active in many different ministries over the 15 years she has been with us; she sang in the Chancel Choir, she delivered home communion to shut-ins, she is an active member of Sarah Circle. Many of us know and love her for her Sign Language interpretation in our Contemporary Worship. She was called to this ministry out of her own hearing disability. Due to our current health crisis, no services to celebrate her life are planned at this time. However, we will notify you when a service is scheduled. Please keep Deb's family and friends, especially Naomi & Alan Hagan who were very close friends, in your prayers in this time of loss.

Family of Jim Bilyeu – Jim has lost his aunt, Stella Sterling, and a cousin, Dawn Mowen, due to Covid-19 in Illinois. The caretakers of her nursing home believed the aunt was dying from COPD and allowed her daughters to visit her. The daughters wore masks and gowns but his aunt did not. Shortly after his aunt died on April 1st, two other ladies also died and finally they took a gentleman to the hospital and he tested positive. There were over 30 cases in the facility and most have died. His cousin was 66 and healthy. She contracted Covid-19 from her mother and died two weeks later. Now that it has been determined the cause of his aunt's death, which then spread to her family, please pray safe isolation will be practiced so that no more lives will be lost to this disease in that location.



OUR FAMILY

Nancy Griffith – sister of Sonnie Andersen, passed away in Lucerne Valley, California after an extended illness. Sonnie asks for prayers for their family and especially Nancy's daughter, Gayla, who was Nancy's caregiver for seven years and nursed her through many things. Please keep Sonnie's family in prayers.

Doris Walton Chambers – oldest sister of Ron Walton, Janet's recently deceased husband, passed away Friday, May 8th, in Oklahoma City. Please keep Janet and Tom and all of the Walton family in your prayers in this loss.

Burch Family – cousins of Marion Koms, have lost two husbands recently. Marion asks for prayers for them and for her own heart, as friends moving, friends going into hospice, and these losses have weighed heavily on her.

Gary Sobeck - son-in-law of Jan Abbott, was recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and passed away on Sunday, May 17th. Although Gary has been fighting health concerns, the cancer diagnosis was sudden and unexpected. Please keep Jan's daughter, Terri, her grandson, Shane, and all of their family in prayer in this time of loss.

Lori Marx' daughter – had been battling cancer for some time and passed away late Friday, May 15. Lori is a friend of Marlene Clapp's and often helps her in the kitchen when Marlene cooks for our church family. Please keep the Marx family in prayers.

Bill Rasico – husband of Doris Rasico, a member of our Caregiver's Support Group, passed away on Sunday, April 26th. Please keep Doris and her family in your prayers in this time of loss.

John Bryson - passed away on Saturday, May 16th. He had been battling cancer for seven years. Please keep Leona and Zoe, who worship with us in our contemporary service, in your prayers as they journey through this time of loss. Condolences can be sent to them at 39 Estes, Bella Vista, 72715.

Please keep all of these families in your prayers, whether they are with praises or in transition or in mourning, during these difficult times for us all.



MEDIA MUSINGS

Kacy Spears,
Director of Communications

Blessed Are the Flexible. . .

There's a saying that floats around the office wing of the church -

Blessed are the flexible for they will not break.

My prayer from the beginning of quarantine has been "Lord, make the world more flexible. Let us open our eyes to understanding one another. Let genuine human connection be what we miss the most - not shopping, not our cubicle, but real spiritual connection with others. Let it be so." My prayer continues as we don't know when the world will return to "normal."

Until then, I pray for my own flexibility. That I take each day in isolation as a new opportunity to find joy, share peace, and adapt to new ways of doing things!

One of my favorite liturgists, Nadia Bolz-Weber, wrote this in a recent blog post:

"I do not know when we can gather together again in worship, Lord. So, for now I just ask that:

When I sing along in my kitchen to each song on Stevie Wonder's Songs in the Key of Life album, *that it be counted as praise.* (Happy 70th Birthday, SW!)

And that when I read the news and my heart tightens in my chest, *may it be counted as a Kyrie.*

And that when my eyes brighten in a smile behind my mask as I thank the cashier *may it be counted as passing the peace.*

And that when I water my plants and wash my dishes and take a shower *may it be counted as remembering my baptism.*

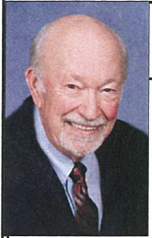
And that when the tears come and my shoulders shake and my breathing falters, *may it be counted as prayer.*

And that when I stumble upon a Tabitha Brown video and hear her grace and love of you *may it be counted as a hearing a homily.*

And that as I sit at that table in my apartment, and eat one more homemade meal, slowly, joyfully, with nothing else demanding my time or attention, *may it be counted as communion.* Amen."

That. That is flexibility.

Kacy



LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Lou Kaufmann

NORMAL IS THE NEW NORMAL

All the discussion now is about the "New Normal" and so I did a little research on it and what I discovered, it is all about being cautious in these difficult days. There is nothing not normal about being cautious most of the times as we live everyday. I have never really been a big hugger but it sure has been hard on Judy because she is one. So she still hugs, but she is cautious about who she hugs. The Elbow Nudge is a new one and I kind of think its fun when you remember to do it. Some say we should never shake hands again, but I don't think that one is going to fly. You can tell a lot about the other person when you shake hands and the elbow nudge just doesn't give you that same feeling. Big business deals have been done by the shake of a hand alone, and I can't imagine that the Nudge could ever give you that same trust as that good old fashioned hand shake. Again, its all a matter of caution.

Nothing wrong with Social Distancing but I am sure that the 6 feet will slowly shrink as we get back to our normal ways. Be cautious where you are and who you are with when you SD. Wash your hands a lot. This is a great idea and I have never washed my hands so much and I'm just going to keep doing this. Good to be cautious.

But my friends, let me tell you where you really have to be cautious. The Virus Scammer. A lot of that is going on right now. Scammers are using the Pandemic to prey on vulnerable seniors. From selling fake COVID-19 tests to fraudulent fundraising for medical workers, testing equipment and even masks. Be cautious. They are going to do this over the phone or by the internet, so just be careful how you respond or react to these situations. Don't buy into it. They work on emotion and our emotions are quite high right now.

Is it the New Normal or will it just be the Normal? It is my opinion that in the near future most of us will be back to the Normal and we pray about that every day. As I said in my last article, we got through a lot over these many past years, and we will get through this.

Blessings, *Lou*

Amy's Anecdotes

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator



The Re-Launch Team of FUMC Bella Vista met for the first time via Zoom to discuss the reopening of the church and in person worship.

The team had the opportunity to see the results of the survey (at the time 97 members responded) and will take those results into consideration, as well as the guidance from the Bishop, the Governor, the CDC, and the World Health Organization in determining when we will have in person worship again. Because of the demographic of our congregation, a majority fall into the "at-risk" category. We don't want to put ANY of our members in an "at-risk" situation. With all of the guidance and suggestions, we have a lot of work to do before we open our doors, that is what this team is tasked with doing.

Every time I read information from our conference, they bring up John Wesley's rule of "Do No Harm." I like to think we are also "Doing all the good we can, by all the means we can..." So give us time to get our building prepared to welcome everyone back in a safe, sanitary way. The Re-Launch Team members are:

Amy Gilmore, Chair

Jim Bilyeu

Connie Knauss

Judy Bilyeu

Artie Lawless

Barbara Brooks

Darleen O'Brien

Lou Kaufmann

MJ Rhein

Amy



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Richard & Jill Hale
- 1 John & Gladys Jutte
- 1 Roy & Jan Vogel
- 2 Chris & Melinda Murphy
- 3 Bill & Aggie Danenhauer
- 3 Jim & Jamey Rowland
- 4 Nathan & Michelle Forst
- 5 Les & Gretchen Magee
- 8 Bobby & "G" Billingsley
- 8 Larry & Charlene Marshall
- 8 Larry & Diane Rolph
- 10 Jack & Jan Kolbe
- 16 Tom & Molly Harris
- 20 Andrew & Rachel Smith
- 22 Rick & Rose Taylor
- 23 Noah & Pamela Pittman
- 24 Robert & Candi Stickney
- 24 Kenneth & Ashdon Wilson
- 27 Jim & Sue Prather

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rick Taylor
- 2 Doug Adamson
- 2 Dennis Cox
- 2 Suzanne Shoemaker

JUNE BIRTHDAYS (CONT'D)

- 3 Bill Danenhauer
- 3 Hal Shope
- 3 Carol Tomlinson
- 6 Marilyn Adamson
- 6 Dixie Young
- 8 Marcia Bohn
- 9 Judy Bilyeu
- 9 Zach Mendoza
- 9 Tiffany Sampson
- 10 Juanita Clark
- 11 Jerre Barron
- 11 Laura Duncan O'Malley
- 12 Angie Rader
- 12 Miriam Stocks
- 14 Pat Cooper
- 14 Shirley Hofmann
- 15 Judy Duncan
- 15 Janice Vogel
- 16 Jim Belcoff
- 16 Joey Smith
- 17 Peggy DeWitt
- 18 Jeanne Williams
- 19 Kandi Mount
- 20 Bruce Fleming
- 23 Melinda Murphy
- 28 Jim Rowland
- 29 Steve Sandusky

June 2020 Newsletter ~ April 2020 Financial Data

		2020 Actual	2020 Budget
Month of April	Income	\$ 40,775.70	\$ 37,084.84
Month of April	Expenses	\$ 40,245.83	\$ 47,130.83
	Difference	\$ 529.87	\$ (10,045.99)
Year to Date (as of 4/30/20)	Income	\$ 151,340.03	\$ 148,339.36
Year to Date (as of 4/30/20)	Expenses	\$ 169,992.09	\$ 188,490.00
	Difference	\$ (18,652.06)	\$ (40,150.64)

Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator



STILL CHECKING TO SEE



Artie Lawless,
UMM President



IF Y'ALL DOING ALRIGHT

Thoughts on a Saturday Morning

“A preview of the New Normal”

As some of you know I like being involved in Veteran's groups. Wall of Honor, VFW, American Legion, Honor Guard, DAV etc... etc... Of course, covid-19 (I refuse to give it a capital C) has put a screeching halt to any activities for a few months now.

Well, this past Tuesday (12th) my VFW post held its first post-covid monthly meeting. It was going to be a short one as the only important agenda item was the election and swearing in of officers for the new year.

So, I hopped in the truck and headed for Siloam Springs. It turned out to be an eye-opening preview of the new normal. There we were, about 15 souls strong sitting on metal folding chairs, 6 foot apart, no tables, in a 25 x 40 totally empty room. It was downright scary. There was some chatter, a few elbow bumps, not everyone wore masks and the meeting was kept shorter than usual. It just felt surreal, quiet, not the usual laughter and bantering that made you feel good to be there.

This virus has taken away much more than what you can imagine until we start coming back and leave our caves to venture out into the new normal. We always begin and end our meeting with a prayer. This one was no exception.

So, I thought to myself, thru all this darkness and isolation that we are experiencing, there is a light, a very bright light ahead. It's God (with a Capital G) and he's calling us to come out of the murky world of covid-19 and enjoy his Brightness. His happiness, His Love.

Yes, we'll get thru this. Slowly, safely and the New Normal may not be so bad if we put "Him" first. Everyone stay safe and reach out to each other when you can. There are many you can call if you need anything.

Until we can gather again,

Blessings, *Artie*

THANK YOU

To our many friends at FUMCBV,

We have moved to be closer to family, but we leave behind our wonderful church family of over 25 years. We have been involved in almost every aspect of FUMCBV over the years and we thank you for the many memorable moments we will never forget. We miss you and look forward to hearing from you. Our new address is: 2035 Danielle Court, El Dorado, KS 67042.

God Bless, *Gene & Dixie Young*

UMW NEWS

2020 Bazaar!



First let me say, I pray everyone is well and staying safe for health purposes. I know how hard it is for each of you and your family members not to be able to socialize with friends.

Nothing is set in stone for us having our Bazaar, but should everything goes well and this pandemic is lifted to a point that we can have one, the board will be discussing how and when we can have a bazaar. It may be possible for us to have the Bazaar and Rummage Sale at the same time. With this said we will be looking to our members to volunteer to help set-up, day of sale and clean up. So, if that time comes, I would like to know who I can call on.

Please keep on sewing, crafting, and anything else you do to help make the bazaar a success.

With the church being closed until further notice, a few of us ladies are willing to provide the necessary materials to anyone who would like to help make items for the Bazaar. Also, if you are able to make scrubbies, we can drop-off netting, as we can always use scrubbies. Also, if you are working on projects at home and need materials, please contact us to get them.

If you have a green thumb that is itching to get in the dirt... Start your planting now for plants to donate to the Bazaar. They would all be greatly appreciated. From all the ladies of the UMW, please know that we are praying for all our church family members.

Should you need any materials, kits, etc, please contact: Darleen O'Brien @ 281-781-3838 or Judy Bilyeu @ 497-721-9460, via call or text,

Blessings to ALL, *Darleen*

PS ~ As they say, "Out of an abundance of caution", we have decided to cancel our **UMW unit luncheon** meeting on June 24th. We will see how things go and hope we can come together again in September.



Because of the uncertainty of our ability to have large gatherings in the future, the **Rummage Sale** may be delayed or even postponed until next year. Please watch all announcements as to what will happen. Hopefully everyone can hold on to their donations until a time is decided. If not, we will accept and store your items until the time of the sale. Contact Verna Bottjen at 876-1392.



From the Organ Console

Broc Hite, Organist/Pianist

It really feels like we're all catching up on life. The last sit-down meal is a distant memory, my hair length shows the result of confinement, and my trip to visit NYC and family in upstate NY in late May was canceled due to lingering Covid-19 concerns. It was possible to get there, but with museums and theaters closed, many restaurants only offering take-out, and no Major League Baseball, it seemed like a bit of a wasted trip.

Yet, the rest of nature seems unbothered by this. Birds have finished their reproductive cycle, the grass is bright green, and days are lengthening and becoming much warmer. We are finally emerging from our own caves, aware that we have to find a new sense of normal, but not quite sure what that looks like!

Inside my own cave, I saw so many other musicians sharing their music that I decided I find a way to do the same. However, I decided to use the First UMC instruments instead of my decent but not wonderful upright piano. My model in the past for my Curious Squirrel series was to share in-person recitals that were 30 to 40 minutes long. That worked for some people. However, for others, it was still too long. After all, if people are going to walk out on a 5-minute postlude, they're not coming back for a 30-minute recital.

However, with more time spent at home, perhaps that 5-minute postlude could be the answer. Why not try presenting much shorter recitals, but on a regular basis? Thus, the Weekly Acorn was born out of the Curious Squirrel model. It's a great way to experience small bites of music, and perhaps it's an entry way to longer in-person and/or even online recitals in the future. So far, I've done several of these, and they are getting lots of views. You can find the Weekly Acorn recitals directly from the videos section of my Facebook page, or go to my Website where you'll also find a lot more to browse.

During June, you should expect to hear a variety of pieces on both organ and piano, as well as some soloists that Larry Zehring has arranged to appear. Instead of working through an entire book of pieces, I'm putting a mixture of shorter and longer pieces into ready mode that can be inserted into our weekly services on short notice. Let me know how you like them!

Broc

Please join me online!

On the Web: <https://brochite.com>

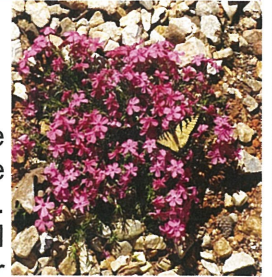
On Facebook and Instagram: @BrocKeysPedals



Children's Chatter

Ashdon Wilson, NextGen Children

I'm tired of negativity, so here's a picture of a butterfly on my phlox.



Kenneth, Scout, and I have been spending more time outside in the past few weeks. We've hiked on every trail within a 10 mile radius of our home, traipsed through every creek (Scout insists), and collected multiple illustrations of the resilience of nature. We have learned a lot from our fellow creations; particularly, phlox.

Phlox is one of the hardiest plants in any garden. Currently, I have two specimens planted in the rockiest soil in my yard, which is mostly clay and rarely dry. And yet, my plants have already doubled in size since I planted them two months ago. They persist through frost, hail, flood, and the heat (sounds like spring in Arkansas!). The bright pink blossoms bring a smile to my face and a warmth to my soul.

May we learn from this tiny example of God's vast design. May we see that even in the worst conditions, there is always room to grow. I pray that we close this chapter of our story soon, and move on to different things, different blooms, and different seasons.

God bless, and don't forget to go outside today.

Ashdon

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

We are leaving Bella Vista and FUMC in the midst of sunshine and rainy days that punctuate the diversity of this glorious place. There is a tickle in my stomach and an ache in my heart at the same time. Bella Vista has been our home for 14 years and given us a wonderful way-station in our lives among the many moves we have made. Beyond the landscape and the opportunities that abound here, we are thankful for this church and its congregation where we could express ourselves through worship and music and learning. Thank you to all who have provided us with words of farewell over the last few weeks. They mean a great deal to both of us. Our new address is: KMH, 402 S. Martinson St., Wichita, KS 67213.

Blessings, *Alan & Judie Packard*

In the Belly of the Well

Kenneth Wilson

The Well Contemporary Worship Leader
& NextGen Director

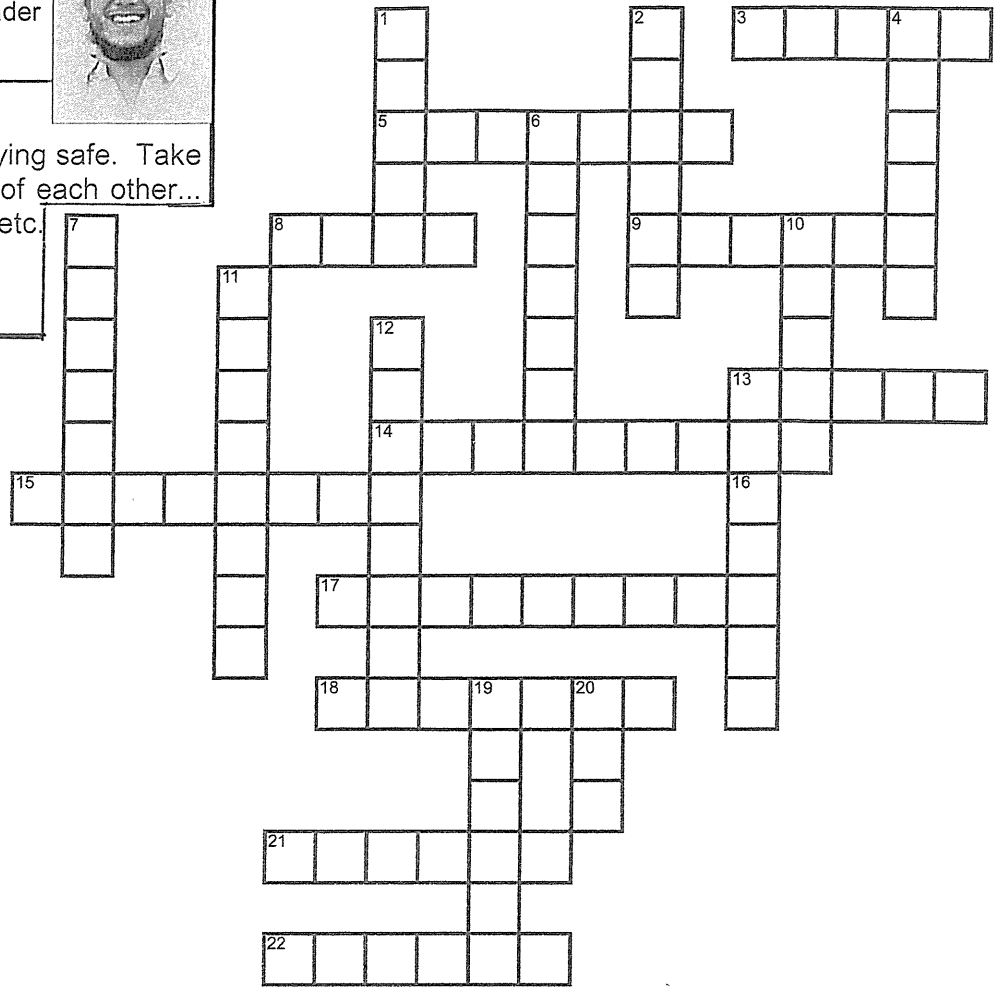


Howdy y'all,

I hope and pray that you are staying safe. Take care of yourselves and take care of each other... physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc.

Peace and Love, *Kenneth*

How Well Do You Know Your Bible??



Across

- 3 A "messenger"
- 5 Another talking animal.
- 8 From the second creation story, rhymes with rust.
- 9 Not Elisha, but...
- 13 Not the devil, not lucifer, but...
- 14 Not a fish... well kinda.
- 15 Replacement disciple.
- 17 How much does a penny cost?
- 18 David made Richard Simmons look bad when he did this in the streets.
- 21 Greek for "books."
- 22 Worth killing Jesus for.

Down

- 1 Best Sunday School answer.
- 2 One of many talking animals.
- 4 Called down a curse of 2 bears on 42 boys.
- 6 Not profit, but...
- 7 Only known female Judge in the OT.
- 10 Does not like big fish.
- 11 David before he was king.
- 12 Alternate spelling for John The Baptizer's mom.
- 16 Found 2 coins in a fish.
- 19 Not Jesus' last name.
- 20 Jesus' favorite thing to take...

Look for the answers in next month's Good News!



Stewardship Corner

What is Stewardship?

In biblical terms, Charles Bugg defines stewardship in the Holman Bible Dictionary as “Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation. Christian Stewardship regards the obligation of Christians in managing and utilizing intelligently the gifts that God has given. The Christian steward is not only responsible for the financial blessing provided by God but also the spiritual gifts that are given through the Holy Spirit. God wants human beings to be His stewards in the work of creation, redemption, and sanctification.

Stewards in the Bible

Joseph’s story in Genesis is considered one of the best examples of biblical stewardship (Genesis 39). After Joseph was brought to Egypt, the Lord made him a prosperous man. While Joseph was in the house, his Egyptian master, the Bible says, “So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.” (Genesis 39:4)

Relating to the biblical stewardship definition – “the manager of a household” – it is clear why Joseph is an extraordinary example of what it means to be a good steward.

Importance of Stewardship

According to scripture, God created Earth for mankind, and we are stewards of His creation. This means it is our responsibility to look after and take care of this world. We should accept this responsibility and appreciate God’s gift of creation for being our home. Our stewardship of creation involves the caretaking of the environment and animals as well as our families and communities. Being a good steward in this world is one way of expressing our love for God and our gratitude to Him.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Trials in Biblical Times

The people who lived in Bible times were no strangers to trials. But many were also well acquainted with the character of God – a loving, protecting Father quick to console His people. He comforted them then and comforts us now.

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

LATEST UPDATES from REV. JEANNE

Dear Friends and Family of First,

As promised, we are updating you with information in as timely a manner as possible. On Friday, May 29, Bishop Mueller issued a new statement regarding when Arkansas United Methodist Churches should reopen. Since the Governor has pushed phase 2 of the state reopening back two weeks, we are also being told to push our possible 50-or-less in-person worship to at least June 28th. This means that is the earliest we could hold worship in-person.

Included in the newsletter are the results from the survey. We had about 104 returned, both online and mailed in. Thank you! We continue to evaluate these results so we can best move forward. We will be sending out a follow-up survey to our first one in the coming week or so. In that survey, you will have the opportunity to sign up to help clean and sanitize the church before, between, and after worship and other gatherings; to greet and escort people to seats for worship; and a few other opportunities as identified by the Re-Launch Team. The Re-Launch Team and the Leadership Team are working hard to make sure that we are able to open safely and remain open. Please continue to keep them in your prayers and all of our church family as we continue to navigate these times.

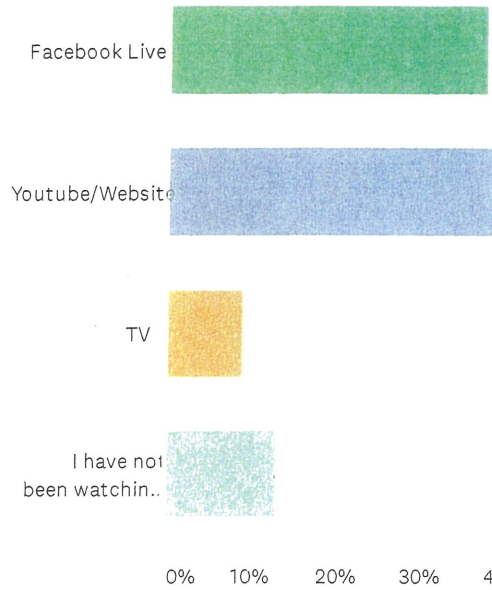
Blessings, *Rev. Jeanne*

**Going outdoors
is not cancelled, listening
to music is not cancelled,
quality time with our
families is not cancelled,
reading a book is not
cancelled, sharing with
friends is not cancelled,
singing out loud is not
cancelled, laughing has
not been cancelled,
sharing HOPE with others
has not been cancelled.
Let's EMBRACE what
we have.**



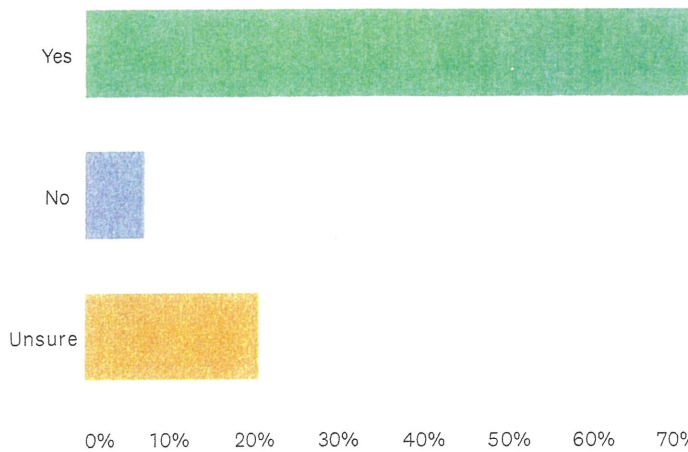
When should we. . . . ?

Q1 If you have been worshipping online, how have you been watching worship?



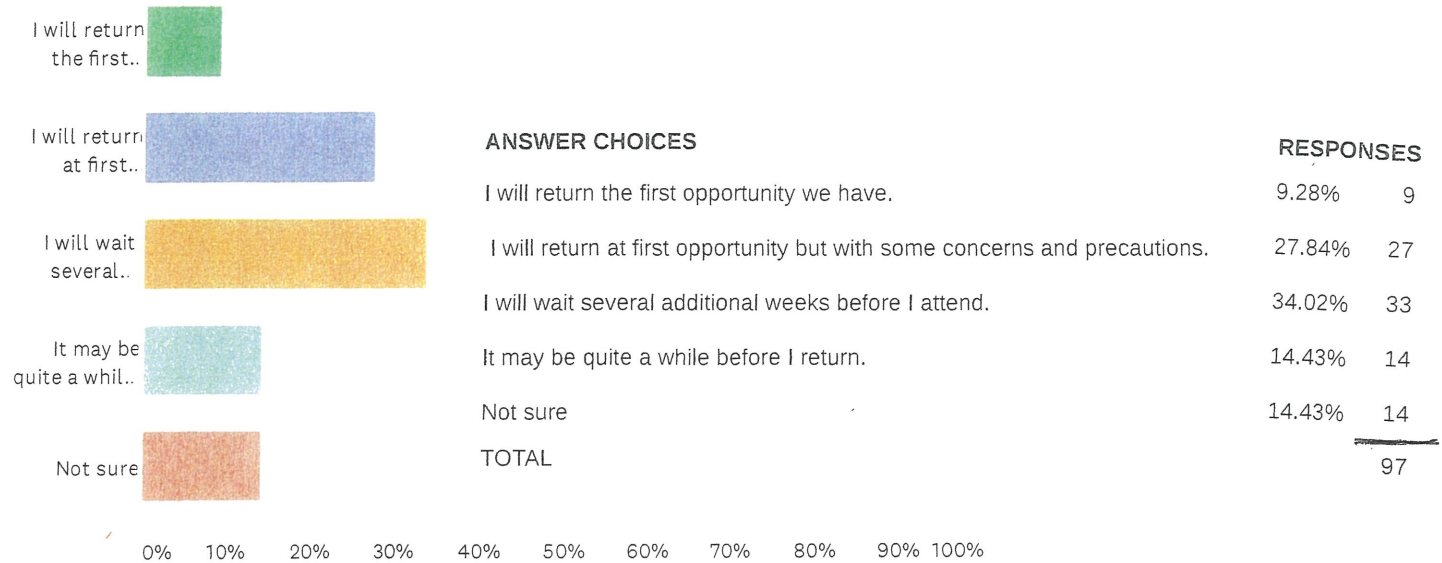
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facebook Live	38.14%	37
Youtube/Website	39.18%	38
TV	9.28%	9
I have not been watching worship.	13.40%	13
TOTAL		97

Q2 If we were to continue online worship for an extended period of time, would you continue to worship in that way?

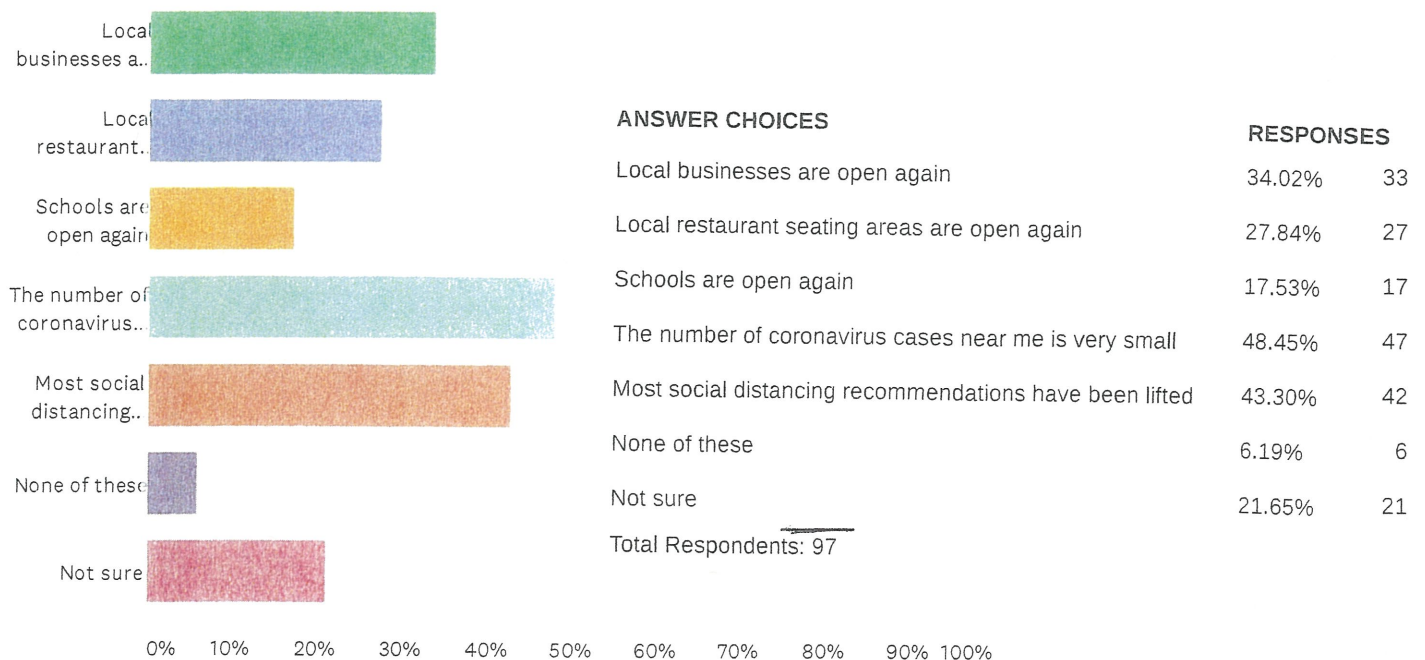


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.88%	69
No	7.29%	7
Unsure	20.83%	20
TOTAL		96

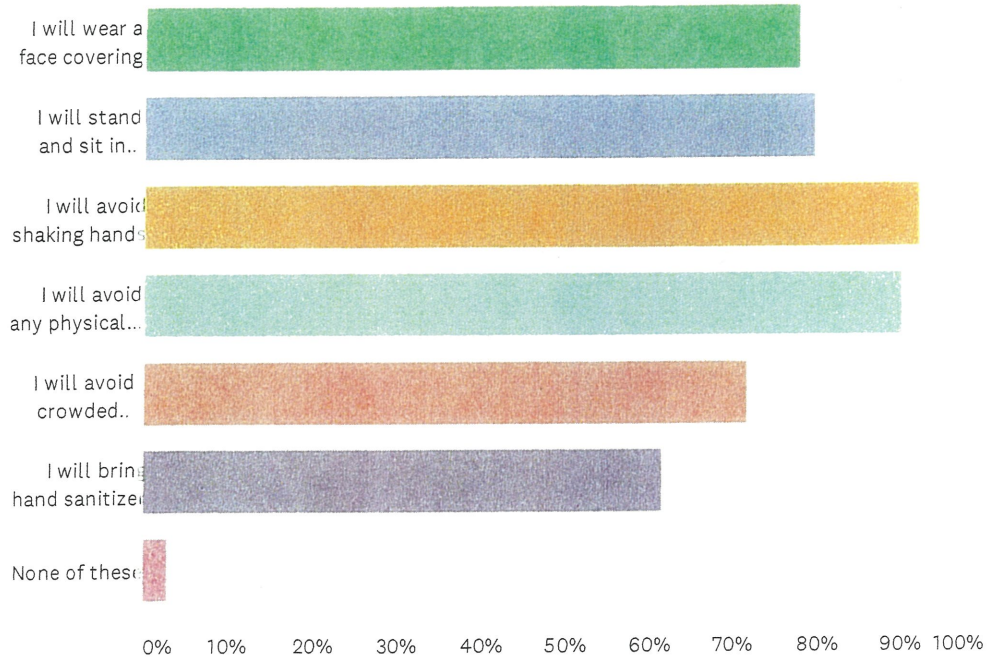
Q3 Which best describes your attitude toward returning to worship service at church? Select one:



Q4 Besides guidance from the CDC, Governor, and Bishop, what other signals would you want to see before you return to attend a worship service at church? Select all that apply.



Q5 What precautions do you plan to take when you return to a worship service? Select all that apply.



ANSWER CHOICES

I will wear a face covering

I will stand and sit in places where I will be at least 6 feet from others besides my family

I will avoid shaking hands

I will avoid any physical contact

I will avoid crowded hallways

I will bring hand sanitizer

None of these

Total Respondents: 97

RESPONSES

78.35% 76

80.41% 78

92.78% 90

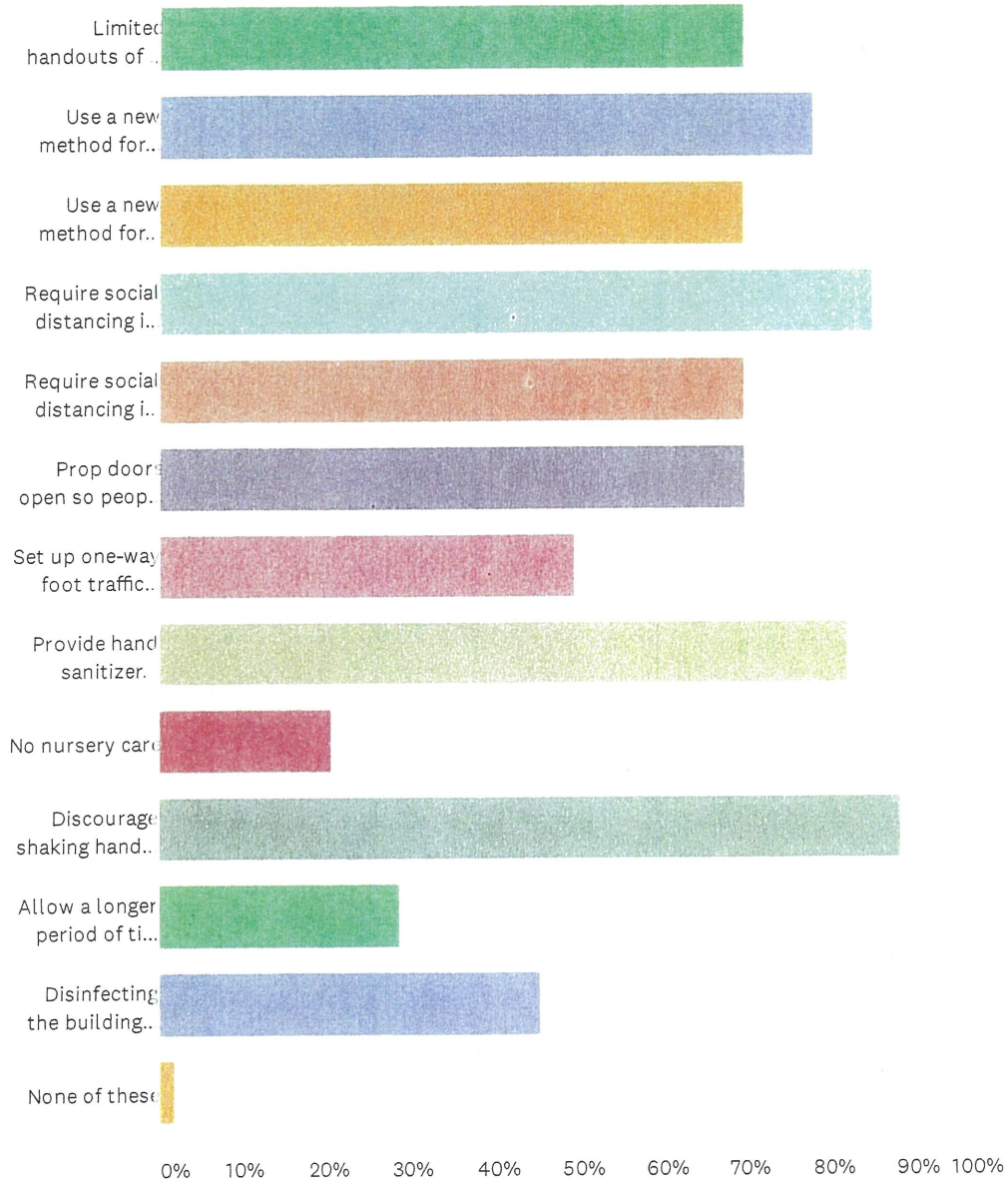
90.72% 88

72.16% 70

61.86% 60

3.09% 3

Q6 What precautions do you expect our church to take for worship gatherings? Select all that apply.

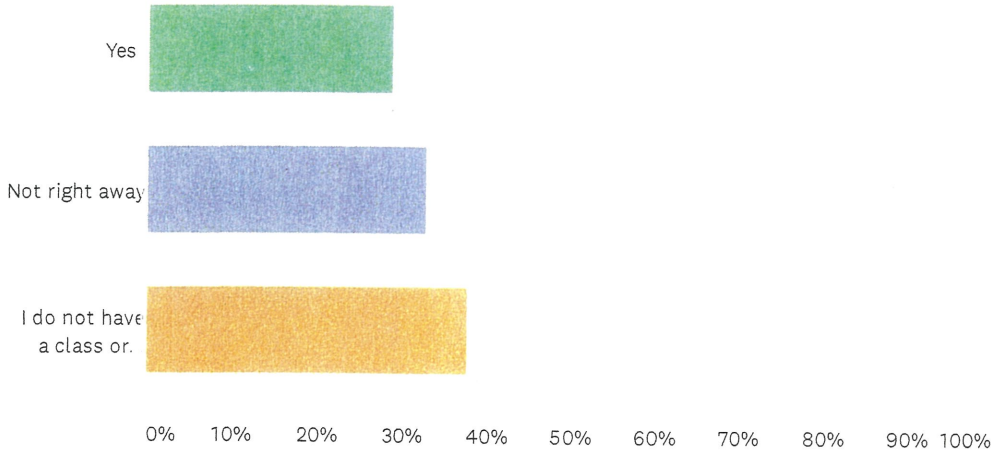


ANSWER CHOICES #6

RESPONSES

Limited handouts of any kind	70.10%	68
Use a new method for distributing Holy Communion elements	78.35%	76
Use a new method for collecting tithes and offerings	70.10%	68
Require social distancing in worship seating	85.57%	83
Require social distancing in small group seating	70.10%	68
Prop doors open so people don't have to touch handles	70.10%	68
Set up one-way foot traffic entering and exiting all buildings including worship	49.48%	48
Provide hand sanitizer stations	82.47%	80
No nursery care	20.62%	20
Discourage shaking hands and other physical contact	88.66%	86
Allow a longer period of time between worship services	28.87%	28
Disinfecting the building between services	45.36%	44
None of these	2.06%	2
Total Respondents: 97		

Q7 Would you be willing to attend your class or small group where it typically meets?

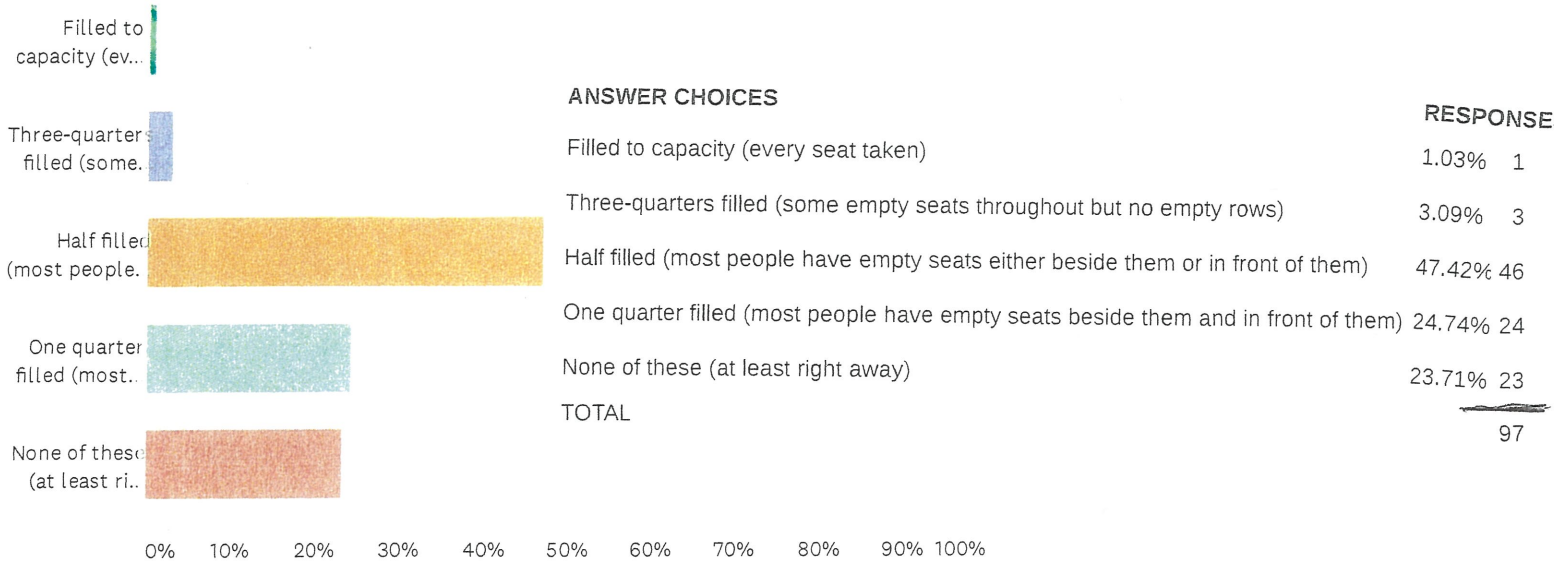


ANSWER CHOICES

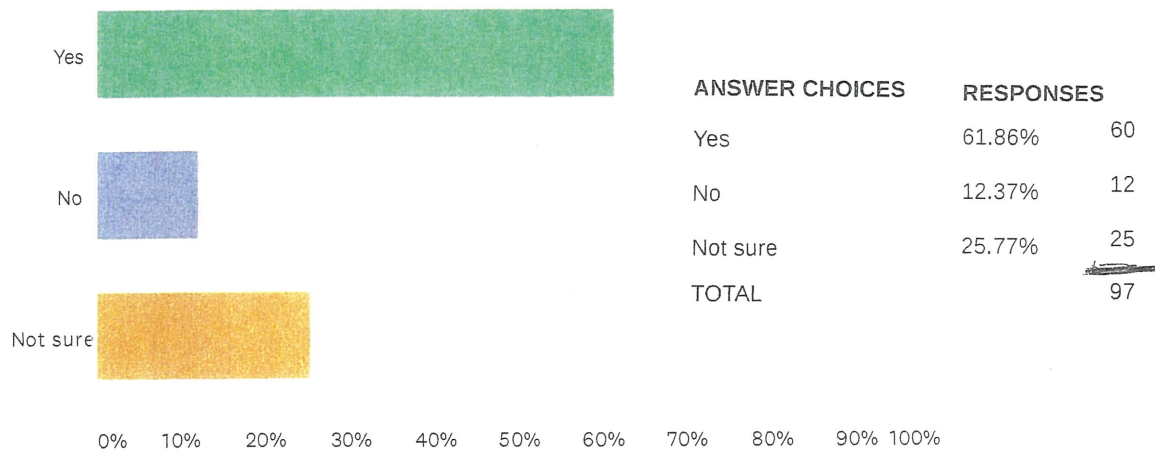
RESPONSES

Yes	28.87%	28
Not right away	32.99%	32
I do not have a class or small group	38.14%	37
TOTAL		97

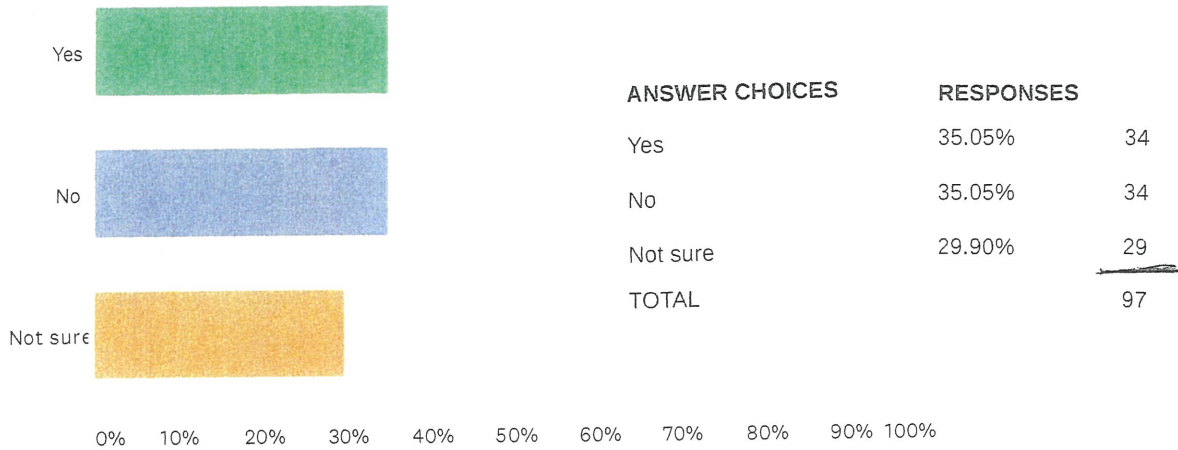
Q8 Which of the following describes the attendance level at which you would be comfortable attending a worship service? I would be comfortable attending if the worship area is...



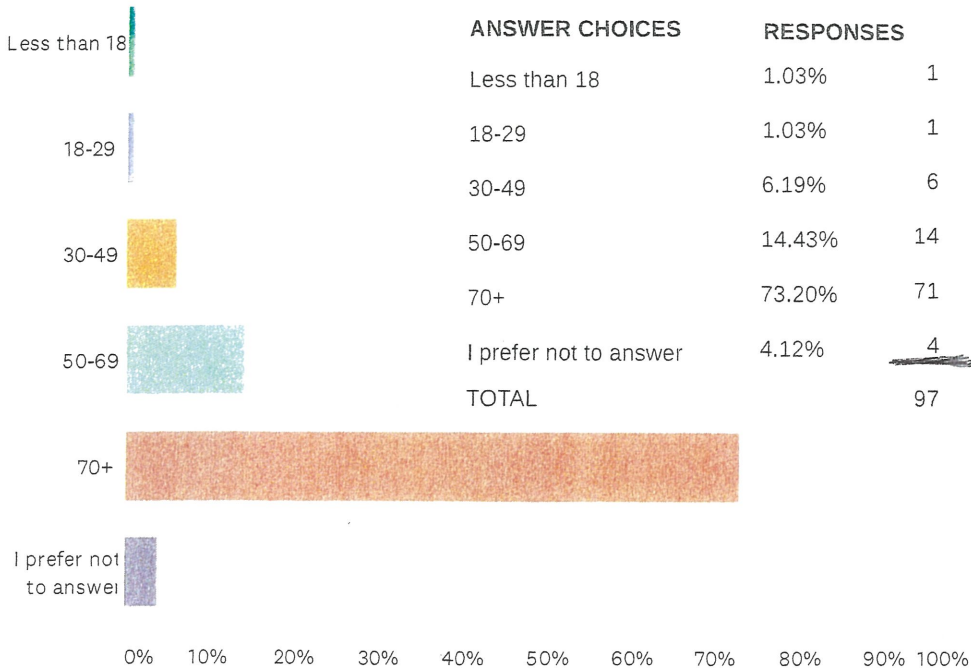
Q9 Would you be willing to attend a worship service at a different time than you typically attend to allow people to be more spread out in the worship area?



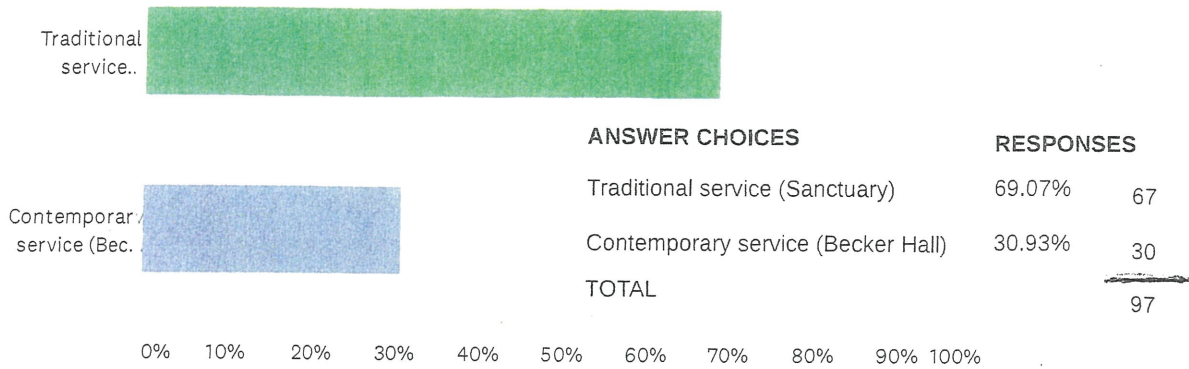
Q10 Would you be willing to attend a drive-in worship via low-transmission radio with the expectation that windows remain rolled up except for ventilation and that all will remain in their cars?



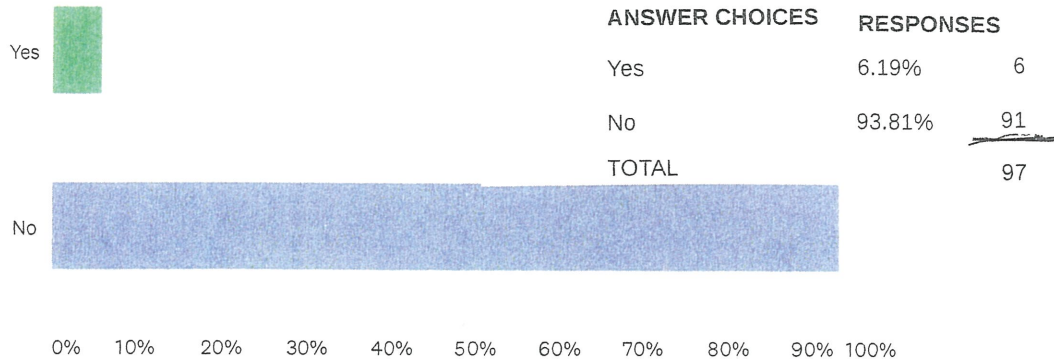
Q11 What is your age?



Q12 Where do you normally worship?



Q13 Do you have children age 10 or younger who live with you and typically attend church with you?





First United Methodist Church
20 Boyce Drive,
Bella Vista, AR 72715

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BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. Jeanne Williams
Associate Pastor - Rev. Brenda Wideman
Church Administrator - Amy Gilmore
Church Secretary - Janet Walton
Communications Director - Kacy Spears
NextGen Youth - Kenneth Wilson
NextGen Children - Ashdon Wilson
Children's Staff - Anne Miner
Music Ministries Director - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson
Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite
Contemporary Worship Leader - Kenneth Wilson

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Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month

Return Service requested

To the Home of ...



STAY CALM
&
REMEMBER to
WASH YOUR HANDS
several times a day,
drink plenty of fluids,
and disinfect frequently-
used surfaces.

STAY HOME
if at all possible.

STAY IN TOUCH
with family and friends
and others who may be alone,
with a quick phone call,
text, e-mail, or send a card.

PLEASE DON'T BECOME COMPLACENT
or WANT TO HURRY THINGS!!
WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!

STAY SAFE!
Remember, You are loved!