

January 2021 E-Letter

The church isn't open yet for Sunday morning worship services and will continue to remain closed through the month of January. This is due, no surprise, to the risk of anticipated Covid virus surges following the holiday gatherings, air travel, etc. Pastors and the Leadership Team are constantly reading updates and are staying "on top" of the situation, not only here, but in other congregations as well. They continue to make judgments on the behalf of your health!



Meet Aaron Swaidner: Prior to the March pandemic new regulations, Aaron installed a new sound system in the sanctuary. Unknown to all, it was just in time. With church closings across the nation, we were able to reopen with parking lot services for Easter through early fall, accessing the old sound board in the church

conference room and miles of cable. With cold weather and Advent approaching, and the pandemic still on, we saw the need to record the services, using a camera that would transfer to FB. Aaron first worked with Eric Mory (FCC), saw what was needed, then made the purchases necessary. Again, just in time! Aaron set up the equipment, coordinating it with the new sanctuary sound board.

This has been a learning experience for all. We have never held parking lot services or videotaped before, so Aaron's patience, experience, and skill brought together a team of many to make it work: his wife Megan, Rick Mann, Dick

Strole, Larry Egolf, Bill Leverton, Terri Woods, Casey Drudge, and more. Thank you, Aaron!

Also, beginning in January, worship leaders are being introduced into the worship services. As before, they will lead in the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer and the Scripture Readings. Couples are chosen because two sermons are taped at one time. It also lessens the risk of transference. Marv and Sara Loutsenhizer kicked off the first two Sundays in January. We looked upon that as a "step forward" to opening! Marilyn Drudge is coordinating worship leaders. Deb Shaw will be doing a January special and we hope to have her to do a special each month that we are closed. Allen Shaw has been asked to record again in February or March.



Again, the church may be "closed" but work continues to be done by the Music and Worship Team in aligning Easter themes and services. Ash Wednesday is February 17! While we do not know what the pandemic holds for 2021, plans must be made regardless.

First Christian Church's sale of their building is in final stages. Their negotiations with Redeemer Church are moving forward. Once final agreement and their congregational vote occur, they will have 4 months to vacate. Consequently, they probably won't be nesting until March-April as the earliest date. They may or may not join us for services. Although this will be an exciting time, the challenge will be

coordinating all activities involved, particularly if we are still closed.

*Our Facebook page responses continue to astound us! To reach over 100 is really good and anything over 200 is “hot.” Deb Shaw’s piano video reached 2,090! Pastor Cheryl has faithfully tracked the responses and is encouraged by the number of “hits” the church receives. Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, “How will the next year be for me?” Where will I be five or 10 years from now? There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step - what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day. The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we can go. Let’s rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.
~ Henri Nouwen, Bread for the Journey*

Keep a good thought!

Sara Loutsenhizer