



Galena UMC

Recovery & ReTurn Report

March 31, 2021 Week #41

Galena's ReTurn Team

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Weekly Update ... from Dale

*Our current plan for reopening is quite simple. We are currently planning to open with our first “regathering” as an outdoor worship service at Recreation Park on May 23rd. We will be certain to communicate our mitigation requirements and more specific details as May 23rd approaches. Please mark that date on your calendar..... **MAY 23!!!!***

Words cannot express how much we have missed being able to gather with each other in person during this season of quarantine. Our prayer is that our love for Jesus is deepening during this time and that we will all come back from this with a greater appreciation for the need for fellowship with other believers. We have been praying about what reopening our physical gatherings should look like and planning a timeline that is intentional and easy to understand.

*Some things that we have kept in mind as we plan are: * The call to fellowship with other believers. Online fellowship is a good complement to our ministry but not a complete alternative. * The responsibility to love our people and protect our more vulnerable population without making them feel left out of church life. * The need to follow guidelines from civil authorities whenever possible. * The call to effectively communicate the steps that we take and in the way that we talk about reopening. We want our speech to be gracious and seasoned with salt. * The need for a wise plan with realistic timing. We don't want to jump in too early and have to keep readjusting if/when the virus spikes in our area. We also need time for our team to get safety protocols in place for reopening and to get our live stream equipment up and running for our online component. Of course, there is no perfect reopening plan that will suit every church member's preference. As we take steps to reopen, let's all willingly submit our preferences to a generalized plan to achieve the greater good, maintaining the unity of the body. We understand that this plan will feel too fast for some and too slow for others. That's the beauty of having a diverse congregation! Thank you for using this as an opportunity to honor others in our church family who feel differently than you and for honoring our church leaders as they shepherd. Our plan is meant to be flexible. Adapt it to fit your unique situation and your own caution level while at the same time not giving in to fear or becoming apathetic about the need for fellowship. COVID is obviously a fluid and unpredictable situation.*

A minister told his congregation, “Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17.”

The following Sunday as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, “Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying.”

Medical Tip of the Week ...from Dennis

If I have already been infected with Covid19, do I still need to get the vaccine?



The short answer is “Yes”. Our natural immunity may decrease with time. How fast this happens and with whom is not yet known. Ask me in a year and I may have the answer. One large study from Denmark published in Lancet on March 17 looked at the experience of a large group of people who were tested for Covid19 in 2020. “When researchers analyzed test results of 4 million people in Denmark, they found that less than 1% of those who tested positive experienced reinfection. Initial infection was associated with about 80% protection overall against getting SARS-CoV-2 again. However, among those older than 65, the protection plummeted to 47%.” Most of us are over 65. This underscores the need for all of us to get the vaccine to be fully immunized even if we had the infection last year. Admittedly, no one knows for a fact how long immunity from the vaccine will last. But we do know that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are ~ 95% effective at preventing illness and 100% effective at preventing hospitalizations and death. These vaccines are well tolerated. Get your shots!

- <https://www.medscape.com/> COVID-19 Virus Reinfections Rare, but Riskiest After Age 65. Accessed 3/29/2021
- [Christian Holm Hansen, PhD, et al.](#) Assessment of protection against reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 among 4 million PCR-tested individuals in Denmark in 2020: a population-level observational study. Lancet.

Notes ...from Charlene ...

If any of you have ideas around our future sanctuary worship, do let us know. In conversations with our members, most still would be uncomfortable attending services in our building at this time. “Staying in touch” through phone calls, notes or emails, bless both the giver and the receiver especially in this time of pandemic. The more we can hold our church family close, the better it feels. We really are all in this together.

Blessings ...from District Superintendent, Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer

Can you believe it? Easter is only a few days away! We are nearing the time of the year when we celebrate that great and powerful event... Easter! At Easter, the church proclaims, “**Christ is risen. He is truly risen.**” Jesus, through his cross and resurrection, has destroyed the power of sin and death and brought us into life. Easter is so much more than flowers, cards, Easter eggs, candy, family gatherings and even beautiful music. It is the historical event that gives ultimate meaning and purpose to our lives.

A year ago, we celebrated Easter differently, not knowing what the next months would look like. We have witnessed that, despite the uncertainty of the pandemic and the challenges in our lives, Jesus has shown us his love, power and faithfulness in ways that we never thought or imagined. Jesus Lives!!

The fact that Jesus is risen, that he was victorious over death and sin, is the reason to celebrate. We are called to share that Good News with joy, hope and confidence that God's marvelous saving action through Christ's resurrection has won the victory over death.

Let's celebrate and sing together today and always, “**God sent His son, they called Him Jesus. He came to love, heal and forgive. He lived and died to buy my pardon. An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives.**”

Remember: Do No Harm ... Do Good ... Stay in Love with God!

Blessings, Pastor Catiana

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13