



Galena UMC

Recovery & ReTurn Report

April 21, 2021 Week #44

Galena's ReTurn Team

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Weekly Update ... *from Dale*

Approach reopening as a marathon, not a sprint.

With COVID-19 rates spiking again in many communities across the country, many churches are wondering what this means for their reopening plans. Some churches have decided not to reopen, but others have already met inside or outdoors, have a return date set in the near future, or are still in the process of determining when and how to gather in person again. No matter where churches fall along this continuum, it is important to continually seek out up-to-date data and research and to humbly integrate this information into an ongoing decision-making process.

As most of you are aware, we will begin holding our Sunday worship services at the park starting on May 23rd and will plan to return to our church building as soon after that as safety and

protocol allow. Our committee has started serious discussions about the criteria that we will follow for this transition and will inform all as we proceed.

Recent research shows that “over half of U.S. churches (54%) are open for normal use—52% with precautions in place and 2% without,” which leaves 46% still waiting to meet for in-person worship.

It is important to approach the reopening process with a commitment to persistence, grounded in the reminder in 2 Timothy 4:7 that we are called to finish the race; not to win the first lap. This means mentally approaching the process of reopening and helping our church navigate COVID-19 as a “marathon”—not a “sprint”—by keeping a long-term view in mind. This mindset helps us realize that our ultimate calling is to remain faithful to our call to love our neighbors as ourself and serve our congregation and community both today, next month, next year, and for years to come.

We can bring meaning to what feels like chaos. We can bring a message of hope to those who feel hopeless.



A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, “How many women can a man marry?”

“Sixteen,” the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly. “How do you know that?”

“Easy,” the little boy said. “All you have to do is add it up, like the preacher said:
4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer.”

Medical Tip of the Week ...from Dennis

CORONAVIRUS

A Progress Report: The Church Is Being Prepared for Reopening

A number of activities are taking place at the church to prepare the building for reopening.

- Starting today April 19 the sanctuary ceiling is being repaired. This will take the entire week. Everything in the sanctuary has been covered in plastic and the workers will work inside a plastic bubble to limit the inevitable mess. The work is being done by Tim Droessler.
- After the ceiling structure is exposed, Marty Johnson will inspect for signs of damage that would need to be repaired. We do not anticipate that any will be found. But we will not know until the structure is exposed and inspected.
- Following the repair, the area will be repainted to match the rest of the ceiling. Painting will be done by the John C. Kaiser Company of Dubuque.
- This will be followed by deep cleaning including the carpet. The carpet in the Fellowship Hall was cleaned last month.
- Thanks to the generosity of Pat Bull in memory of Smiley Nejd, we will install AV equipment in May to enable live streaming of church services. The installation should be completed by Memorial Day.
- The lower sashes of the windows in the Fellowship Hall will be freed up and screens we found in the boiler room will be installed in five of them. This will allow cross ventilation during the summer. This is an important safety measure during the pandemic.

We are hoping to reopen the sanctuary for Sunday services on July 4. Keep your fingers crossed.

Update from the County ...from Jay

Registration is now open for this week's COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

On Tuesday, April 20 there will be a Moderna Vaccination Clinic at Stockton Elementary School from 4 to 6 p.m. for anyone that lives or works in Jo Daviess County over the age of 18. Link to registration <https://events.juware.com/.../9f77c623-446c-43d1-922a.../>

There will also be a Pfizer Vaccination Clinic at Midwest Medical Center in Galena on Tuesday, April 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. for Jo Daviess County teens ages 16 and 17. Link to registration <https://events.juware.com/.../1e826f11-3b74-4135-a742.../>

On Thursday, April 22 there will be a Moderna Vaccination Clinic at Midwest Medical Center in Galena from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for anyone that lives or works in Jo Daviess County over the age of 18. Link to registration <https://events.juware.com/.../ff982a7c-38cf-4a87-b828.../>

Notes ...from Charlene ... Let us continue our phone calls and notes. "Stayng in touch" truly blesses both the giver and the receiver especially in this time of pandemic. Hold our church family close. We are all in this together.

Blessings ... from Pastor Catiana

"Love and grief go hand in hand. Sometimes it is the deep grief we feel during loss that awakens us to the depth and sincerity of our love." Powerful statement for our pandemic time when opportunities arise for choices grounded in love or in fear. Our scriptures are clear, love one another. Love sacrifices. Love attends to the economic realities of our siblings. Love moves boldly. Love shows obedience to God's way. This multi-layered love for one another has God's love as its source and its model. Its essence, however, is to be expressed outwardly in word, in deed, in action. May your love continue to find wings.

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

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