



# Galena UMC Recovery & ReTurn Report

August 25, 2021 Week #57

## Galena's ReTurn Team

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### Weekly Update ... from Dale

**We are trying to keep up-to-date and informed for the health and safety of all.....**

A few weeks ago we thought all-digital worship services, recommended masking and strict social distancing were a thing of the past. We have since learned of the spike in new cases and that spike is expected to grow. The ongoing surge in cases tied to the highly contagious Delta variant, accompanied by controversy over vaccinations, has severely dampened American's optimism about emerging from COVID-19, which makes decisions for churches no easier.

At Galena United Methodist Church we will continue to require all persons attending worship in the sanctuary be masked and follow social distancing guidelines. We also want to maintain some social contact and will be offering refreshments after our services (just water, coffee, tea, etc.) We will offer that social time in our prayer garden outside the side door to the church.

As always, the decisions being made are for the benefit of all members of our congregation. If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the return committee.... We are more than willing to accept input toward making our decisions and adjusting our worship services as we move forward.

**Several people have asked about their favorite cartoon since we started publishing our reports. I will rerun what seems to have been a hit.....**

### Notes from Charlene...

As we continue our in-persons gatherings, let us not forget how important our phone calls and notes are. "Staying in touch" truly blesses both the giver and the receiver in all times. Heart connections never grow old. Hold our church family close.

My favorite 2020 purchase has to be my social distancing service animal



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## Medical Tip of the Week and more ..... By Dennis

### How to keep dry in a storm

When it rains you use your umbrella. I think we all agree that this is common sense. If you don't, you will get soaked. According to the latest CDC data the highly transmissible Delta variant accounts for 98.8% of all Covid19 infections in the US. 99% of the counties in the US, including Jo Daviess County, are at high levels of positivity and transmission. To further the umbrella analogy, if we are getting soaked in the virus everywhere we go particularly indoors, and we are, it only makes sense to use a mask indoors for the same reason you use an umbrella in a rainstorm. Until this surge passes us by, be safe, protect yourself from the virus. You do not want to become one of the few people who are being hospitalized even though they have been fully vaccinated. It is infrequent, 0.0035% of fully vaccinated people. But it is happening. Why take a chance? When we protect ourselves, we are limiting the spread of the virus and we are protecting those around us who are vulnerable. We are also doing our part to prevent the emergence of a vaccine resistant variant. Every little bit helps. Be safe. Keep others safe. This will pass. We can emerge from our cocoons when the surge passes us by. This may be a few weeks. It may be a few months. We can speed it up by staying safe and keeping those around us safe.

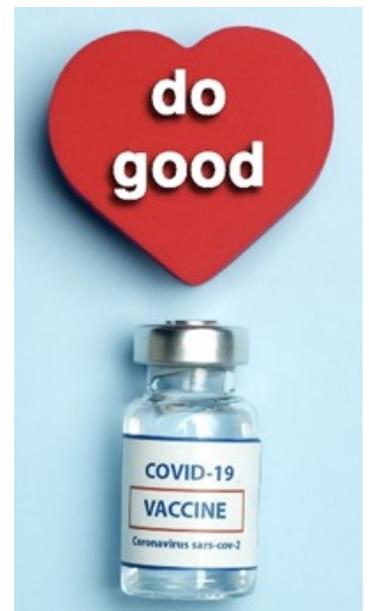
### Update from the County ...from Jay

There are 11 active cases in Jo Daviess County as of Aug. 20, according to the Health Department. The CDC notes that Jo Daviess County has a high level of community transmission. The CDC continues to recommend that everyone, including fully-vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in public indoor settings.

### Blessings ... from Pastor Catiana... *(always good to revisit)*

#### Do Good COVID-19 Movement

The United Methodist Church has along history of supporting healthcare efforts, from running clinics to praying for health care workers to advocating for public health measures. We are part of a long history of Christians who have done their best to combat disease, pestilence, and plague. At this moment, encouraging people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is one of the most effective things we can do to promote public health. The goal is simple: to have all of our churches encouraging their members, friends, families, and neighbors to get vaccinated or to speak directly with their primary care physician about their vaccine questions.



**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<sub>2</sub>15:13*