

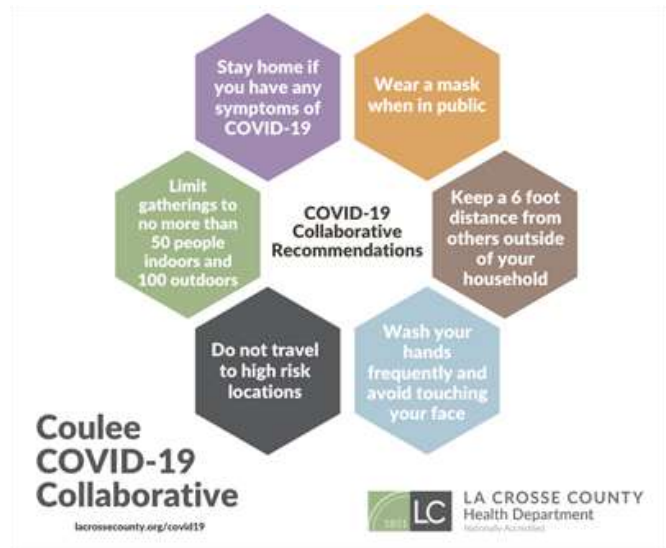
September 8, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

As the fall season begins, we wanted to update you on our plans at Onalaska United Methodist Church. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued longer than most people anticipated. Until a vaccine or other solution is found, we are learning as a community, a church family, and individuals to cope with the “new normal.”

Our church is using local guidance from the Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative, a joint effort of the La Crosse County Health Department, Gundersen, and Mayo Health Systems. The Collaborative provides best-practices guidance based on local conditions. You can see the most current update online at...

<https://lacrossecounty.org/covid19>








According to the Collaborative, La Crosse remains a hot spot. We are encouraged to continue wearing masks, safe-distancing from others, and limiting our travel and exposure. These measures are for the protection of others who are more vulnerable, not just ourselves. As Christians we are called to put aside our own preferences in order to serve others. Paul reminds us not to use our freedom “to indulge your selfish impulses, but serve each other through love” (Galatians 5:13).

At this time, OUMC’s COVID team recommends that we don’t return to regular weekly indoor worship services, where other local churches have experienced infections. However, groups of up to 50 inside, or 100 outside, can meet safely when the necessary precautions are taken. All visitors must wear a mask and do a health check by the entrance. We are posting safe occupancy limits on rooms. Zoom meetings on computer or telephone are always an option.

We are planning lots of special events and small groups outdoors and indoors, including outdoor in-person worship this Sunday! See the back for ways we are connecting and doing meaningful ministry.

Questions? Ideas? Want to volunteer? Email us at office@onalaskaumc.org. Thanks for your prayers, and God bless!

				
Wes Panzer, Council Chair	Megan Barbian, RN, Lay Leader	Becky Barnes, Stephen Leader	Mark Beahm, MD, COVID-19 Team	Rev. M. Park Hunter Pastor

For more information and current status of our church response, see OUMC’s COVID-19 resource page...
<http://onalaskaumc.org/covid-19>

ONALASKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019

We have a variety of activities to meet our church mission and goals. Because of the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, plans may be updated. Please contact the church for the latest news.



LOVE ALL PEOPLE UNCONDITIONALLY.

RECONCILING CHURCH CONFERENCE, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2-5:00pm, Zoom, indoors & drive-thru.

Our church reconciling vote, postponed from March 29. Discussion 2:00-3:00pm, with 50 people in the sanctuary (sign-up via the office) and unlimited on Zoom. Members may vote in-person via drive-through 3:00-5:00pm; at-home pickup of votes available (contact the office). Information, sermons, God Moments, Q&A and more at... <http://www.onalaskaumc.org/reconciling-ministry/>



PREPARE OUR HEARTS, MINDS, AND HANDS.

ADULT SUNDAY STUDIES, Sundays, 10:45am, Zoom.

Sean Molstad's African American Church Experience has started; Margret Awtrey's History & Mystery of the Bible class launches October 4. Contact the office for details.

SOAR, CONFIRMATION, AND SOAR JR. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm, outdoors, indoors & Zoom.

Kick-off September 16, outdoors with bonfires! Masks required; groups will be distanced; we plan a mix of outdoor, indoor, and online activities for fall

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS, various dates and times by sign-up.

Small group lessons and craft activities. Contact Jessica Gobel.

GROWING THROUGH DISASTER, first and third Mondays, 5:30-6:30pm, Zoom.

Stephen Ministers lead this group on disaster recovery after COVID19. Contact Becky Barnes.



SERVE IN ALL THE WAYS WE CAN.

DRIVE-THROUGH COMMUNITY DINNER, second Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30pm, covered drop-off.

Contact Paul Bratsch.

COULEE VIRTUAL HUNGER WALK/RUN/RIDE, October 4-11, participant's choice.

Participate on your schedule and your own route, support food pantries, OUMC will donate \$100 for every team of 3+ signed up! Info at <https://www.couleeregionhungerwalk.org/>

BLOOD DRIVE, Monday, October 19, 1:00-6:00pm, narthex and lobby.

Updated layout for safe participation. The need is great! Contact Susan Herzog-Blumer.

HALLOWEEN TRUNK-OR-TREAT, Saturday, October 31, 4:30-6:30pm, upper parking lot.

Decorate your car trunk, and hand out candy in our parking lot. Contact Jessica Gobel.



CELEBRATE GOD IN ALL WE DO!

OUTDOOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP, Sunday, September 13 and October 11, 8:30am and 11:00am.

Will also be livestreamed. Masks required; bring lawnchairs and set up in the north yard; north entrance closed; weather permitting.

SUNDAY LIVESTREAM WORSHIP, 8:30am and 11:00am weekly, <http://youtube.onalaskaumc.org/>

Now with online chat so you can visit and submit prayer requests during the service!

REFRESH! MIDWEEK SERVICE, mid-week by noon, <http://youtube.onalaskaumc.org/>

30 minutes of music and message available mid-week with highlights from the Sunday services.

SANCTUARY, Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-2:30pm during office hours.

Come for some quiet time in our holy space. Call ahead if you'd like to visit with Pastor Park

MUSIC PROGRAMS, to be determined.

Contact Cory Groves (Choral), Zoe deBoer (Praise), or Kimberly Wadewitz (Bells) to participate.