

May 2021 Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:00 am UMW General Meeting (FH)
2 Communion Sunday 8:00 am Prelude (FH) 9:00 am Traditional Worship (with Sunday School after Children's Moment)	3 11 am—2 pm Riner Office Open	4 11 am—2 pm Riner Office Open	5 12:00 pm Wednesday Open Worship	6	7	8 10:00 am Annual Mother's Day Celebration (Downtown Glendale)
9 Mother's Day 8:00 am Prelude (FH) 9:00 am Traditional Worship (with Sunday School after Children's Moment)	10 11 am—2 pm Riner Office Open 7:00 pm Church Council	11 11 am—2 pm Riner Office Open	12 12:00 pm Wednesday Open Worship	13	14	15
16 UMW Sunday 8:00 am Prelude (FH) 9:00 am Traditional Worship w/Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship (FH)	17 Riner Office Closed	18 11 am—2 pm Riner Office Open 4:30 pm UMW Exec Board Meeting (FH)	19 12:00 pm Wednesday Open Worship	20	21 6:00 pm Pre-Conference Briefing for Annual Conference Delegates (Zoom)	22
23 Pentecost Sunday 8:00 am Prelude (FH) 9:00 am Traditional Worship w/Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship (FH) 2:00 –3:00 pm Rev. Nancy Cushman Retirement Celebration (Zoom)	24 11 am—2 pm Riner Office Open	25 11 am—2 pm Riner Office Open	26 12:00 pm Wednesday Open Worship	27	28	29
30 8:00 am Prelude (FH) 9:00 am Traditional Worship w/Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship (FH)	31 Memorial Day Offices Closed					

Sunday Morning Schedule

Dear Church Family,

For the last several weeks, I've invited you to share your ideas and preferences for our Sunday morning schedule, as we move forward with resuming activities. I've been grateful for the calls and emails we've received, and for in-person suggestions from many of our congregation. I've also contacted other United Methodist congregations, and asked for information from our conference office. In consideration of all of the input I've received, and keeping in mind our overarching goals of growing our congregation and reaching out with new and/or reconfigured ministries to meet our community's needs, I propose the following foundational principles for our new schedule:

1) The times for worship services and activities will remain consistent as much as possible from this point forward, to build stability and avoid confusion; 2) the schedule we build will allow for maximum flexibility in adding additional activities, as they become possible and/or as needs develop; and 3) we'll consider the needs of those attending and leading worship services, studies, and activities, to allow them maximum flexibility in participating in a variety of activities if they desire, and to allow for the development of new leadership.

Taking all of that into account, I propose the following for Sunday mornings:

8:00 am: Prelude Service in the Fellowship Hall.

9:00 am: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary. This service will combine the 2 services we've been offering at 9:00 and 11:00 am, and will continue to be live streamed. **Sunday School** for children will be during this time. The young people will be in worship for the beginning of the service, then leave following Children's Moment to attend class.

10:00 am: Fellowship Time. We're planning to open the Fellowship Hall beginning on Sunday May 16. We won't be able to offer refreshments as of yet, but plan to do so when circumstances permit.

11:00 am: Contemporary Worship. Location and starting date TBA. We also plan to live stream this service.

Additions to this schedule will include Adult Study Groups and Youth Sunday School, which will be scheduled when the needs of participants, leaders, and/or their families are determined, especially their preferences for attending worship. I acknowledge that there will probably be some who will be disappointed in this schedule, and if that is so, I sincerely apologize. There was simply no way to meet everyone's preferences simultaneously. Of course, I always welcome additional ideas and suggestions. I praise God that COVID-19 levels continue to be low in our area, and I encourage any member of our Church Family who hasn't already gotten the vaccine to do so. I hope you'll join me in a prayer that our community will avoid any future resurgence, and I know I speak for our COVID Response Teams, both here at First United Methodist and in our Conference, in saying that we pledge to do all we can to keep each other safe, whatever circumstances may occur.

May God be with us, as we offer vital worship and ministries to our community.

In Christ's Service,
Tom Jelinek, Pastor