

May 29, 2021

Dear Emmanuel Friends:

Greetings to you in the name of Our Savior Jesus Christ!

I hope this note finds you well. I hope that you are taking heart from the spring weather and the small changes that indicate we are slowly returning to a more open life following a long isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic, Emmanuel has sought opportunities to worship together. Last summer we met for outdoor services. In October some of us gathered in the church under COVID restrictions. Since Nov. 29, 2020 (Advent 1) Emmanuel has worshiped weekly via Zoom. The attendance has been steady, averaging about 26-28, and many have found the services to be inspirational and meaningful. The Rev. Jerry Wichelns has done a masterful job of planning and leading the services, and many have participated in different ways.

Recently the Emmanuel Vestry decided that we would start meeting outdoors for worship at the McFadden home, 18821 Spring Street, Adams, beginning Sunday, June 6. Meeting outdoors would be in keeping with state and diocesan recommendations. The format would be similar to last year, including wearing masks and physical distancing between household groups. If it rains, we could meet indoors at the church under COVID restrictions which are stricter than for outdoor services.

The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York and Emmanuel church have been cautious during this pandemic, seeking to keep everyone safe. As I write, the virus is still with us in Jefferson County and the Tri-County area. Many adults are vaccinated but some are not, and most children are still vulnerable.

We are looking forward to meeting indoors eventually. One factor in the Vestry's decision is that people seemed to enjoy the outdoor services last summer. Sometimes it is pleasant to worship outside amid nature where one can hear the caroling of birds and feel the gentle breezes in the early morning.

Emmanuel is also planning to have early-morning services at St. Luke's-by-the-Lake in July and August. More on that later.

For now, please pass the word that Emmanuel will meet outdoors for worship at the McFadden home beginning June 6 at the regular time, 9:30 a.m. We will get more info to you regarding what to do in the event of rain. I look forward to seeing you and worshipping with you.

May God richly bless you,
John McFadden, Warden