



The Hamilton Beacon

May 24, 2020

Looking Ahead

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM JACK

President Donald Trump declared houses of worship essential, calling for them to reopen "right now" and threatening to override governors who resist.

Personally, I believe a reopening requires careful thinking. We do not want to do more harm than good. As I wrote last week, "Speaking for myself, I hold all of you in such high esteem, and want so much for Hamilton to be a place of health and safety, that I am more willing to be more cautious than not."

In the Presbyterian Church, worship decisions belong to the Session. At Hamilton, the Session/Trustees are the group.

An enormous amount of planning would have to support this decision, including establishing a 6 foot distance side to side and back to back. I suspect this means using every third pew and designating each possible seat with a taped marker. Plus face masks for everyone and counting those who can come in.

The dynamics are difficult to comprehend. Several Covid-19 clusters have been linked to places of worship. When a person who later learned they had the virus attended a California religious service two weeks ago, 180 other people were exposed to coronavirus. Holy Ghost Roman Catholic Parish in Houston, canceled services indefinitely as of May 14, a day after one of their priests died from the coronavirus.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST IS COMING

The white flags flying at our Sanctuary's entrance have created some comments. That's exactly what we hoped would happen. We want Hamilton Church to be a presence in the Hamilton neighborhood.

White represents the Season of Eastertide, the 50 day period from Easter to Pentecost. This coming Sunday you will drive by and see Red flags (that is, if they arrive by post).

Red is the color for Pentecost and the Sunday following. The color reminds us of the coming of the Holy Spirit recorded in Acts, chapter 2. If your neighbors should ask, use this as an opportunity to talk about Hamilton.

We seek to "show off" off Hamilton. We have a new website for our congregation. We've discovered that developing a website takes time and there are always corrections and adjustments. So this is our plea: if you see some needed adjusting, please call the Church Office, you may get the recording, but we'll receive the message,

Check us out at: www.hamilton-pres.org

(Continued on the next page)

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2020
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
(USA)

Do not despair, my friends, the time will come when we walk into our sanctuary, not with apprehension, but with joy at being together, greeting each other, praying, singing, rejoicing in God's presence, knowing that we are safe. Until that time, let us keep each other in our thoughts and prayers.

REMEMBERING MEMORIAL DAY

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Almighty God, ruler of all the peoples of the earth,
forgive, we pray, our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love truth;
give wisdom to our counselors
and steadfastness to our people;
and bring us at last to the fair city of peace,
whose foundations are mercy, justice and goodwill,
and whose builder and maker you are;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Woodrow Wilson, (1856-1924)

FROM OUR BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

God of the nations,
we remember before you with grateful hearts
the men and women of our country
who in the day of decision
ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy.
Grant that we may not rest
until all the people of this land
share in the benefits of true freedom
and gladly accept its disciplines.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.