Minister’s Board Report

April 2021

Hello!

Lower California Covid rates continue to look more and more promising. How glad I am to be able to say that!

This Thursday, I will be meeting with Rev. Mandye to discuss a re-opening plan along with a preliminary discussion about the worship service time. Currently, First Christian is working toward a Sept. 1st building re-opening date. That was originally determined when Covid rates were higher and it will allow them to complete the upgrades on the sanctuary (automatic sanctuary sanitizing system, new carpet, pews removed, new chairs, new wall decorations, new sound & camera system, etc.). With the Covid situation looking better than expected, perhaps that date will move up a bit; however, I know First Christian is committed to being cautious as are we.

As far as the worship service time is concerned, I will be discussing it with Rev. Mandye to determine what our options are exactly. As the Board will ultimately make that decision, we will have to consider several factors, including the fact that “later” services are usually better attended in most churches; staff availability; and the fact that many congregants have voiced a preference for an earlier service (which would also mean an empty parking garage that’s easy to park in). Lots of things will need to be considered—but first, let me talk with Rev. Mandye and find out exactly what our options on time are. She has re-affirmed that in our agreement with her congregation, we currently have three good sized classrooms available to us on Sunday mornings, along with our two offices. Until the lease with the other building is finalized, it’s good to know that we should be able to make do on Sunday mornings, if we have to.

As predicted, our engagement online has slowed down a bit this Spring, though we are welcoming in two members this Sunday as well as having had ten newcomers attend our last New to UU class. This Sunday begins our pledge drive and pledge packets will be mailed out (by USPS) to our congregation. I also think UUCF would significantly benefit by offering a monthly credit card or automatic withdrawal option. Having an automatic charge of, for example, $40 a month is much less intimidating for some than pledging $480 in one lump sum. I’d love for someone to figure out how we can easily offer this as I think it’s one of the crucial ways non-profits survive these days and in the future.

As always, your leadership during this time has been deeply appreciated.

In gratitude,

Rev. Jason Cook