

Hello UMCPs'er,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

As the Coachella Valley begins the process of gradually reopening its businesses and other public spaces, I am sure you have questions about when UMCPs will be opening its doors for in-person worship. I want to share with you some thoughts that are going into that important decision.

On the one hand, we want to open our beautiful and inspiring sanctuary - with the necessary precautions - as soon as possible for all who are ready to attend in-person worship.

On the other hand, health and government officials continue recommending "vulnerable populations" (those who are over 65 or who have underlying health conditions) stay home for the time being. If we were to open our doors now, many for all intents and purposes could feel excluded, even as it is their choice to make.

As we are a congregation that deeply values the embrace of hospitality, the question is, "What choice is the most hospitable? Making in-person worship available as soon as possible? Or waiting awhile until it's determined much safer for everyone to participate in-person, especially because the option of worshipping online will continue?"

I believe the right answer, "the sweet spot" as I like to call it, will make itself apparent as we continue to pray about it and share our thoughts and questions and intentions with one another. As you share your thoughts and questions and intentions with me.

*To that end, Erin Forge't-Wells and I have created a brief online survey for you to express what is currently on your heart and mind about it all.*

The link to the UMCPs reopening survey can be found here-[restarting in-person worship survey](#). If you would complete the survey by next Sunday, June 7, that would be great.

Your responses will help me discern how the Spirit is moving amongst us and will help provide direction as to when that "sweet spot" for re-opening our sanctuary for in-person worship might be.

Thanks so much for your attention to this brief survey. Happy Fabulous Pentecost!

Much peace and love,

Pastor Jane

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