



Grace Note: *Post-Easter!*

Dear Family and Friends of
First Church Evanston,

What a glorious Easter
experience!

It was our first in-person
gathering in the sanctuary
since March 8th, 2020. The
first words spoken by the
clergy in the sanctuary were “Christ is risen!” and those gathered
responded with “Christ is risen indeed!”



75 persons, including leadership, registered for the outdoor sunrise service and after the benediction, Jack E. played the trumpet from the center of the Labyrinth. I imagined the saints interred applauding! 38 persons registered for the meditation in the sanctuary and Dr. Schoettler filled the sanctuary with Easter music. 70 persons registered for the in-person Easter worship and there were many tearful eyes at the close of the service. 18 children gathered in the Memorial Garden, and thanks to Sam J’s labyrinth visual during Lent, they were excited to make their way to the center of the labyrinth with its basket of easter eggs, mostly running and laughing. My heart was full to overflowing as I stood by and watched them - I was humming “I want Jesus to run with me!”

In addition to our Virtual Worship at 10:30 am, we will continue meeting in-person for worship every Sunday 9:45 - 10:15 am for the months of April and May. Registration will be required and all protocols will be observed (temperature checks at the door, facemasks at all times, social distancing and no singing). The Qualifying Question of whether one has been fully vaccinated assumes both doses and completion of the days required to reach fully immunity. Of course, there is an option for anyone who is not willing to disclose their status. Our capacity will be capped at 50 people who have not been fully vaccinated. Worshipers will enter through Church Street and exit through Hinman. [Save a Seat for Worship - First United Methodist Church](https://www.faithatfirst.com) [First United Methodist Church \(faithatfirst.com\)](https://www.faithatfirst.com)

In-person worship will require volunteers in leadership for acolyte, cross bearers and liturgists. Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) for the dates and ministry you would be willing to volunteer. Let Jane know of any queries. I am aware the in-person worship time unfortunately clashes with our Sunday School hour. I apologize for the inconvenience.

91 persons have made donations to First Church's donation towards Evanston's Reparations efforts for a total of \$44,857.50 It is not too late to give! I look forward to presenting our gift through the Reparations Fund at the Evanston Community Foundation which is private and separate from the city's public funds. It is not too late to give: <https://faithatfirst.regfox.com/online-offering>

I will be taking some vacation and renewal time April 13 – May 31st. Having had the privilege of a full vaccination, I plan to travel to Kenya, though reports of the virus' mutations has spooked me. 57.7% of all Covid tests in Kenya are positive. Many people in our village have died. Africa is projected to reach herd immunity in 2023. It is all very depressing.

Love, as always, seems to make all of us brave and perhaps foolish enough to take risks. Zechariah's words on Palm Sunday still remind me I am a "prisoner of hope" (Zech 9:12). So here I am serving life in the prison called Hope. I'm a lifer for Hope! In addition, this week I cling to St. Paul's words to young Timothy that "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

I continue the self-discipline of praying for at least five families of the congregation each morning during pandemic. It has been fun speaking your name out loud! I will continue to do so. I, in turn, ask for your prayers for me. Lord knows I need them!

In Christ's love that brings to life *dead-as-a-door-nail* relationships,

Pastor Grace



First United Methodist Church
Evanston, IL

516 Church St. | Evanston, IL 60201
847.864.6181
www.faihatfirst.com



First United Methodist Church | 516 Church St, Evanston, IL 60201

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@faithatfirst.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!