

Reeds Mill Church

"The Church in the Wildwood"

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June 2021

Dear Neighbors and Friends of Reeds Mill Church:

Summer is upon us! How wonderful to look forward to gathering with family and friends, finding our way back to "normal" and finding our way back to Reeds Mill Church! YES! We will be open for services this summer. Our speakers are all lined up and anxious to lead worship in "The Church in the Wildwood." Here are the rules we will need to follow:

Masks are optional.

Masks and sanitizer will be available.

We will be singing.

Maintain social distancing.

A basket for offerings will be placed at the back of the sanctuary. Offerings can be made either on your way in or out.

Services will start on July 4, 2:00 PM and go through August 29. If you haven't been to the church in a while, please come and enjoy one of the few remaining historic public places in Madrid, not to mention a beautiful place of worship. The mills are gone; many of the homesteads and schools are gone. But the only church ever built in Madrid still stands.

Here is the schedule of speakers:

July 4	Phyllis Blackstone	August 1	David Smith
July 11	Doug Dunlap	August 8	Mike Senecal
July 18	Thomas Rock	August 15	Ben Witherill
July 25	Susan Tierney	August 22	Carl Beu

We will host a Hymn Sing on Sunday, September 12 at 7:00 – bring your flashlight! The Sandy River Ramblers are tentatively scheduled for a benefit concert on Sunday, September 26 at 2:00 – stay tuned. Our Thanksgiving morning service will resume at 10:00 that day as well as the Christmas Candlelight Service on Sunday, December 19 at 3:00.

Our dear friend and traditional Old Home Sunday speaker, John Gensel, has officially and really, really retired. He will no longer lead worship the last Sunday in August. However, he plans on attending Reeds Mill Church every now and then. So we'll get to see him! Laura Church from North Vienna United Methodist Church will fill the pulpit on August 29 for our traditional Old Home Sunday. She has led worship several times in the past. She is a wonderful fit for Reeds Mill Church. We will know better once it gets closer how we will handle the pot luck portion of Old Home Sunday.

Although there were no services in 2020 the church was not entirely unoccupied. Here's the story. At the last Christmas Candlelight Service (2019), the wood stove was not behaving typically leading to concern about the safety of its operation. The trustees gathered several times last summer to discuss the stove's future. No one could recollect the last time it and the stove pipe had been cleaned...definitely not in the last 20 years. The fragile condition of the longest pipe run in Franklin County and the liability precluded any professional from touching it for cleaning. Plan B...If we continued to plan services for Thanksgiving and Christmastime and have the church available during cold times of the year there needed to be alternative heat. Several local propane companies were invited to give us estimates for Empire heaters, which do not require electricity in order to operate efficiently. After much discussion, the trustees hired Jeremiah Caldwell, from Phillips, to

install two beneath-the-floor empire heaters. He did a great job! It was no easy task working beneath the church floor and we thank him for all the effort! So now there are 2 grates in the floor and 2 thermostats in the back of the room, a propane tank and 2 chimneys on the back side of the church. The heaters are not intrusive and are very quiet. Coincidentally, the company that has been insuring the church for more years than we know of is pulling out of Maine. Our agent was called and the first question he asked was "Do you have heat in the building?" Timing is everything. If we hadn't installed the new heat, we would not have gotten new insurance. For many, this transition may be heart breaking. It was for all of us who had a hand in it. But we also know that the day may come when there will be no one who knows about or wants to deal with using the wood stove. And it's really important to be able to have insurance and heat. We believe the best solution was found. We hope you'll all agree.

There is a pile of split wood by the church. If you or someone you know could use it, it is free for the taking.

We wish to thank all who made donations to the church for the new heat. That generosity was very helpful in getting the job done. We are grateful, as well, to those who were able to make a general donation despite there being no passing of the basket. Also thanks to Naomi Henderson, who donated window weights, and Steve Mitchell who installed them in the window where the ropes had broken.

Did you know Reeds Mill Church has a Facebook page? Devotionals are regularly posted. We will begin to post information about services and who will be leading them. Please check it out and "like" us!

Some of you may know the Congregational Church in Phillips was sold last year. The congregation is now holding services in the Community House. They had an abundance of Methodist Hymnals and graciously offered 30 of them to Reeds Mill Church. In addition to beloved traditional hymns there are many written in the 1980s-90s, early in the Contemporary Christian Music genre. Please take a look through when you're here and don't hesitate to ask if there's a hymn in there you'd like to sing.

The Reeds Mill Ladies Sewing Circle has reconvened this month. After the covid-forced hiatus, they will have their sewing machines humming again. They will be setting up for quilting activities in the Community Room at the Madrid Historical Society the first and third Thursdays of each month. If you would like to join or want to order a quilt, call Terri Plog, 207-639-3276. The circle also has notecards for sale in packets of 10 for \$7.50, which picture the church on the front. They are available at the church or through a Circle member.

This year's trustees are Nicole Norton, Claudia Boucher, Mike Malesky, Carl Beu, Naomi Henderson, Pam Searles, and Steve Mitchell. Just like you, these folks love Reeds Mill Church and want to see it remain an active house of worship.

If you have received this through the U S Postal Service and have an email address, we would appreciate sending future newsletters in that way it; please send your email address to yrobie@live.com. Church information is all you will receive via email.

Let me know if you would prefer to be taken off the mailing list.

May you be blessed with good health, safety, and uplifted spirits.
Ginni Robie, Clerk for Reeds Mill Church

