

From the Board of Trustees of Congress St. United Methodist Church

During our last trustee committee meeting on Monday, June 2nd, we discussed several issues, some new and some old, but the one that seems to come up at almost every meeting is the lack of respect for this old building, mainly the clutter and trash that is constantly left lying around. We have received a variety of comments from different individuals, input from our two church custodians, and based upon our own visual inspections, here is a list of guidelines that we are putting in place.

1. The sanctuary:

The sanctuary is a sacred space. NO food or drink is allowed in the sanctuary. This is a ZERO tolerance policy, the only exceptions to this rule are the sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, and water for the choir and speakers.

2. Restrooms:

The custodians have noticed an increase in the misuse of paper products, mainly paper towels. These are being way OVER used and just thrown at the trash bins and landing on the floor. Use only what you need and be sure to use the trash receptacles that are furnished. The floor is not one of them. Also, this should go without saying, but we have to, FLUSH please! There is no excuse for this kind of behavior. If you are sending children in alone, please go in after them and check that they are cleaning up after themselves. Also, the misuse of paper products eats away at our already strained budget. Please be fiscally and environmentally responsible with the products that we supply for your use.

3. Hallways and common spaces:

The trustees are in this building a lot, and even after our meeting, some of us took a walk around and did a visual inspection of the church. We found that the classrooms, offices, hallways and common spaces are just cluttered with boxes, furniture, broken cabinets, ladders, old flyers from different events just to name a few. Going forward, if your group uses these spaces, please keep them clear of items that do not belong there. If you don't want it thrown out, put it away. If you are not able to move these items yourself, please let one of us know, we will take care of it for you. There is a complete list of trustees on every Sunday bulletin.

We are blessed to have a lot of groups using this church in various ways, but if this continues to be a problem, we will be forced to suspend or revoke privileges in this facility. There are only two custodians, and six trustees, we all have full time jobs too, so we are asking for your help in these matters.

Congress St. UMC is in the middle of a new initiative to be attractive to new guests to share their spiritual journey, but if the building looks trashed all the time, NO one will want to come back. They will find alternative choices for worship and fellowship.

Please be good stewards of the property and spaces built by the saints before us to fulfill our mission and outreach programs for the Greater Lafayette community as evolving followers of Jesus for the transformation of the world! Thank you for your consideration and help with these tasks.

The Trustees of Congress St. United Methodist Church.