

Greetings Church Family!

I'm sure all of you are just as anxious as I am to get back to in person church services. It has been a long road and the decision to meet again in the building is not an easy one. We understand that some people have mixed feelings about returning to large gatherings for many valid reasons. Others are not worried at all and wonder what all the fuss is about. We also understand that the COVID19 virus is a legitimate disease and it has the potential to do great harm to people. Furthermore, we understand that many individuals and churches are struggling to know how to think about the regulations and exceptions of the governor's Executive Orders. We are no different. In times of trial, the flesh wants to rule and there is potential for pride, division, and fear. Yet we must seek to live by the Spirit and walk in unity, humility, and wisdom that is from above.

After several meetings and great deal of time spent in prayer, I'm excited to let you know that the deacons and I think that now is the right time to start meeting again. This letter is meant to share our plan for reopening the church on May 31. We ask that you read it carefully. We cannot eliminate all risk, but we think this plan is wise without being overly restrictive. For the sake of the rest of the people gathered and so that we can continue meeting in person, please cooperate without grumbling. If we see a spike in cases in our church, we will be forced to go back to online services, so please do your part. We understand that this plan might frustrate some of you, but we also hope that it will put those at ease who are nervous about returning.

May 31

9:30 AM – Early worship service

11:00 AM – Worship service

6:00 – Evening service

*No Sunday School, nursery, children's church, or youth group

June 3 – Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer in the sanctuary at 7:00

June 7

9:30 AM – Early worship service

11:00 AM – Worship service

6:00 – Evening service (Communion will be served)

*No Sunday School, nursery, children's church

** Youth group will meet with Rick Borman after the evening service

June 10 – Wednesday evening Bible study and prayer in the sanctuary at 7:00

Important Notes:

- Both AM services will be identical. We are not giving any specific instructions for which AM service you need to attend, so pick whichever time you prefer. Some of you may want to consider the early service in case we have visitors at the 11:00 service. We are not planning a specific overflow space at this point.
- For those who are still uncomfortable, we plan to continue live streaming the 11:00 service. We have added a few technology components over the last month so that live streaming will remain a regular part of our ministry.
- We ask you to be diligent in paying attention to your health and the health of those in your home. If you have had symptoms of cold or flu (like dry cough, a fever within the previous 48 hours, etc.), please

stay home and access the livestream on our YouTube channel. We also ask that if you know you have been around a person who has tested positive or is a presumed positive for COVID19, that you stay home and access our live stream. The CDC recommends 14 days of caution after exposure to a person who is presumed positive or tested positive for COVID19.

- We ask that you use great wisdom and caution on deciding to attend if you are immune-compromised, or are above 65, or have preexisting conditions. The 11:00 service will continue to be live on YouTube.
- We are not requiring masks for anyone, but you are more than welcome to wear one if you want.
- **Parents**, we know that some you might be concerned about having your kids in the service with you. But we all understand that they will make some noise, probably need to get up during the service for the bathroom, and so on. That's totally fine, they are kids and we want them here. There will be special children's bulletins available and you might consider packing a few quiet items to help keep them occupied.
- We are also enacting the following procedures to provide a safe and clean environment. Please cooperate with them and use common sense.
 - We will prop open as many interior doors as possible. The greeters will be holding open and/or propping open the exterior doors while people are entering and exiting.
 - We ask that you greet one another **without** handshakes, hugs, and other close physical contact.
 - Please maintain 6ft of social distancing to the best of your ability.
 - We will be cleaning the main points of contact between all services. You can help with this, by making your way out to the parking lot at the conclusion of the service.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in the foyer and disinfecting wipes are in all of the classrooms.
 - In order to give distance between rows and to limit our capacity, we are closing every other row of seats and we ask that you leave at least 2-3 chairs between you and the family next to you.
 - The offering plates will available in the foyer after the service ends.
 - Communion will be done without passing the plates or any other direct contact.
- More details will follow in the coming weeks about SS resuming and about kids' ministries like AWANA, Jr. church, nursery, and so on. At this point, we are still planning on VBS in July but that is subject to change.

No matter how you are feeling about the current situation, I want to remind you that because we serve a great and mighty God, we have no need to be angry or afraid. We again ask for your continued patience because flexibility is going to be required in the ways we meet and minister. We are committed to providing an environment that is safe and conducive for worship, prayer, fellowship, and the sharing of the Gospel, even if takes a little different form than what you are used to.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 15:5-6

Pastor Tim and the board of deacons