

Information about Sunday, May 31, 2020

Dear Church Family

We are excited to announce that we are returning to worship services in the church building on Sunday May 31, 2020. Finally! I know many of you are ready to return to worship, and many of you are still wary about returning. We are making every effort, as we are energetically preparing worship space for your return. We, also, understand that we are taking on a huge risk, and you are too by attending worship services.

**Taking these risks into consideration, it is okay for you to remain home and continue to worship with us on the internet through our website, Facebook, or YouTube. If you have a compromised immune system or have chronic health conditions, please stay home.**

We are trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we navigate the road ahead. We know we cannot eliminate this risk by ourselves. Our staff has been working diligently to clean the church building. We hope that you will help us in the following ways to eliminate any anxieties that others may have as we strive to go to a “new normal.”

### **Face Masks**

We are encouraging everyone to wear a face mask and we have face masks available for you that do not have them. We understand that face masks can be uncomfortable, weird-looking, different, but we want to be sensitive to those around us that we are taking every precaution to minimize the spread. Our staff will wear masks. Only when they are speaking on stage will they not wear a mask.

### **Arrival**

We will use only three doors, the “church office entrance” and both “sanctuary entrances.” We ask that you do not park in the back of the church. Greeters will be stationed at each entrance to open doors for you. There will be facemasks available at each entrance, if you need one. If you take a facemask, it is yours. We do not want them back.

### **Seating**

We ask that families sit together.

We will have two services. First service will be at 8:30 AM, and the second service will be at 10:15 AM.

We believe that everyone that attends will fit on the first floor of the church. If we have to open up the balcony, we will.

We will have certain areas blocked off for seating purposes. We ask that everyone comply with the close sections. When you enter the sanctuary, we ask that you sit towards the middle of the row.

We ask that you leave two seats between you and the next family. We do not want unrelated people sitting next to each other during this time

### **Greeting, Welcoming, and Hugging**

I know many of you may want to shake hands, hug, or give fist bumps. For the welfare of others, we ask that you please refrain from all physical touches. Words of welcome, smiles, and head nods may have to do during this time.

### **Bulletin and Announcements**

During this time, we will not print a bulletin, but we will have all the announcements online and on the screen during the service. We will also email these announcements during our weekly email from the church.

### **Offering**

Many people understand that we have an online giving platform. We encourage you to give through that platform if this suits you. We also will encourage giving through the plate. We will have certain areas where the offering will be taken.

During the offertory, there will be offering baskets on the stage. There will, also, be baskets on the way out so you may give that way. There will be a box in the foyer for you to drop your offering before the service. At each place of offering, there will be a deacon that will oversee the collection of the offering.

### **Worship**

Singing praise is a wonderful time during our worship. We will continue to praise the Lord through singing in the service, however, there will be no choir during this time. As for a time when the choir will return, we will evaluate and notify the church when that time occurs.

### **Response to the Sermon**

At the end of the service, we will have an invitation. If the Holy Spirit has led you to respond to a decision publicly, we will give you direction on how to respond during the services. Here are some of the ways you can respond, though.

- You may come forward
- You may call or email us and one of the pastors will contact you
- You may connect with one of the pastors after the service

We may give other directions when you respond so that we may be able to follow up with you.

### **Exiting after Worship**

Exiting the worship service will occur by releasing certain sections of the sanctuary. We will have different doors to enter and exit into the worship service. There will be several signs giving directions.

Feel free to talk to those near you, but please do not get up and congregate. When we dismiss the service, we are asked that you will continue your exit outside of the building and fellowship together while practicing social distancing.

### **Cleaning**

Between the 8:30 service and the 10:15, service cleaning will occur. We will clean doors, door handles, light switches, chairs, and bathrooms with disinfectant.

You may notice that there will be parts of the church that will be inaccessible – preschool area, balcony, and certain hallways – to church members when you enter the building. While we do not intend to keep you away from other parts of the building, these areas are closed because space will not be used or will be limited during this time.

### **Exposed to COVID-19**

If you have been in close contact with someone that has tested positive to COVID-19, please do not attend worship for the next 14 days. Please be tested before returning to worship.

### **Testing Positive for COVID-19**

If you have tested positive for the virus, once you have returned to worship, please contact one of the church pastors. We will not give your name out without your permission. It will be our responsibility to inform our church.

### **Questions**

1. When will we return for Sunday School?

Our priority is to begin worship services again. While we have a tentative schedule for June 14<sup>th</sup>. We recognize that we need to evaluate how the worship service will be, before we start Sunday School. We are working on a schedule for Sunday School and worship service, when we do resume Sunday School.

2. When will we return for Sunday evenings and Wednesday nights?

It is not likely that we return to Sunday evenings or Wednesday nights again soon. Yet, in the event when we do return an announcement will be made and information will be made available.

3. We need to have a business meeting, when will this happen?

We have a scheduled business meeting to occur in July, and we will continue to keep this business meeting on the calendar. As we continue to evaluate our services, we will notify the church when the business meeting will occur.

4. Is there a possibility that we may shut down the church again?

Yes, there is a possibility that we may shut the church down again. If another major outbreak takes place in our church or our city, we may shut the church down. We will follow the guidelines of our elected leaders and the health officials to determine this event.

Moving past COVID-19, we pray that God continues to use us for the spread of the gospel. I want to thank you for reading and digesting the information above. We will make adjustments along the way as we return to worship in a “new normal.”

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

In Christ

Trey Byrns  
Associate Pastor & Administrator