

July 7, 2020

Dear friends,

The Elder Board is very excited to be reopening the church for worship this Sunday, July 12. It has been a long four months. It is our prayer that the Lord has been teaching you much about His nature in this period. I know that I have been guilty of taking Christian fellowship for granted and the Lord has impressed upon my heart the importance of gathering together with His people.

I want to start this letter with a bundle of thank-you notes:

- To the church staff for all that they did to make the church thrive these past four months.
- To the AV team who worked tirelessly to get the worship service to us each week.
- To all of the members who have volunteered their time and talents to perpetuate the ministry these past four months.
- To each of you in the congregation who have prayed and who have given sacrificially to the ministry.

The elder board is aware that every member wants what is best for the health of the congregation both spiritually and physically. We are convinced as a board that there is unity around how to promote each person's spiritual health. We also recognize that there can be vastly differing opinions on how best to ensure the physical health of the body at this time.

The elders are doing their best to provide for both. We are praying for everyone to actively show love, grace, mercy, and patience as we worship our Lord as one body in the name of Christ. Given the diverse convictions on how best to meet as a corporate body during this start-up phase, we are praying that Christ will be glorified. Your prayers to this end are necessary and appreciated.

As a result of much prayer and discussion among the elders, here are the details of what you can anticipate this Sunday, July 12:

1. The service will begin at 10:30 as usual. The main doors into the convergence area will be propped open from 10:15 until 10:40. These are the only doors that we will use at this time. Please plan to proceed through the convergence area and to your seats as quickly as possible.
2. There will be stations in the foyer with hand sanitizer and masks.
3. We plan for the service to be one hour in length. With that in mind, we ask to the extent possible, that you take care of your lavatory needs at home.
4. There will be two boxes available for your offerings. Offering plates will not be passed in the service.
5. We ask for all to wear masks in and out of the sanctuary and while singing.
6. The far right section (facing the stage) will be reserved for those who prefer to wear a mask for the entirety of the service. Signs will be posted as a reminder.

7. In the other sections of the sanctuary, masks may be removed if we are not singing.
8. Every other row will be roped off to maintain social distancing.
9. Seating is on a first-come first-served basis. If capacity is reached, the Koinonia room will be available to watch the service as it is live-streamed.
10. There will be a limited number of tables and chairs available in the convergence area to be used as necessary by parents with small children who find staying in the sanctuary to be a burden.
11. Bulletins will be placed in the hymnal racks for use upon arrival. The bulletin and the children's bulletin will also be sent out with the *Post* on Thursday. The children's bulletin will not be available at church, so please feel free to bring your own copy.
12. Dismissal from the service will be by row from back to front starting with the mask-required section and then proceeding to the other sections. The ushering staff will facilitate this process.
13. Fellowship following the service is welcome in any of the outdoor areas. Please refrain from any hugs, handshakes, or any other form of physical contact outside of your immediate family

We have prepared a survey that will be sent out on Sunday to gauge your reactions to our service. We ask that all of you complete a survey, whether you attended the service or not. The answers to this survey will help to guide the elder board in making decisions as we work to make our environment as safe and as friendly as possible.

I know that this will not be the only communication that you will receive from the church this week. In an age of information overkill, it is easy to dismiss multiple communications from the church. We ask for your help in preparing for Sunday by reading these messages and by praying that our time together will be a blessing to all who attend or who watch over the internet.

Pastor Josh is working on a sermon on Psalm 119. We know that this does not seem like it will fit in with an hour-long service, but Pastor is preparing a message that will speak to our hearts.

We ask for your prayers as we begin to worship together once again. Please know that whether you plan to attend in person or watch via our live-streaming, our desire before the Lord is that each of us will grow to be more like our Lord and Savior.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

In His hand,



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