

May 11, 2020

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to inform you that after much prayer and deliberation, our session has put a plan in place for a phased reopening of our church! Phase 1 of that plan is set to begin on Sunday, May 24th at 9 am with an outdoor service held at Lake Russell. Please be advised that these plans are subject to change as the session continues to monitor the spread of the Covid-19 virus giving much consideration to the advice and counsel of federal and state officials.

Phase 1 of our plan to reopen will involve a single outdoor worship service and an online service livestreamed on Facebook. There will be no Sunday School, choir, or nursery provided. The outdoor service will begin at 9 and the livestream will begin at 11.

Phase 1 Requirements:

- Social Distancing – Families may sit together without social distancing. However, all others must remain six feet apart at all times.
- Everyone must bring their own chair/blanket to sit on.
- Masks – All worshippers are encouraged to wear a mask.
- No Nursery will be provided.
- Controlled seating – Deacons will be present to direct you.

Phase 2 will involve a single worship service with limited attendance. Occupancy of our sanctuary will be limited to a percentage set by the session. Only a limited number of pews will be open to ensure social distancing. Overflow crowds (also on a limited basis) will be seated in the fellowship hall to watch the service live on the screen provided. The service will also be streamed live on Facebook.

Phase 2 Requirements: (Date to Be Determined by Session)

- Social Distancing – Families may sit together on one pew without social distancing. However, all others must remain six feet apart at all times (whether sitting or standing).
- Masks – All attending the service must wear a face mask to protect those around them.
- Controlled Seating – Deacons will seat worshippers in sanctuary and fellowship hall to ensure social distancing.
- Release by row – After the service, worshippers will be dismissed by row. Those sitting in the fellowship hall will be released first, then those sitting in the sanctuary will be dismissed.
- No socializing inside the building (that's a tough one).
- No communion will be served until the whole body can meet together again safely.

- No offering plates will be passed, but collection plates will be placed at each exit for those wishing to give their tithes and offerings.
- No nursery will be provided.
- Deacons will be stationed at each door to allow for safer entry and exit.
- All surfaces in the church will be sanitized after each service.
- Sunday School will be offered on a digital platform only.

Should I attend?

- Those who are at risk of the most serious illnesses related to Covid-19 are those who are 65 years of age and older and who have underlying medical conditions (chronic lung disease, heart conditions, kidney disease, etc.). If you fall into one of those categories, please do not attend.
- If you or anyone in your household has a fever or cough, please do not attend.

As we make our way through these uncharted waters, we all must do our part to ensure the safety of those we love. Please be patient with us as we work out the details. We will be flexible and adjust our plans to serve you best as we make our way through together. As always, be assured of our love and prayers!

Having said all of that, I am truly excited about the prospect of reopening! It has been a tough two months for me. I have missed my church family more than you know! May 24th can't get here fast enough!

See you soon,