Hello, First Christian Church!

I am happy to inform you of our **TARGET DATE** to resume in-person worship services on Sundays. Presuming our local health indicators remain positive, we will begin holding worship services at the church building on…

 **Sunday, June 14 at 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM**.

As we share this news, here are a few things we want you to know:

**1. THANK YOU!**

The Elders and I have certainly appreciated your prayers and your patience as we have asked God for wisdom on how to gather for worship both safely and effectively.

**2. WHY JUNE 14?**

We are instructed by God to respect the governing authorities, who in Indiana (thanks be to God), have encouraged us to keep proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Yes, the state government requested our help in limiting the potential spread of sickness through refraining from gathering for a time. But recently our Governor presented a 5-stage plan to re-open Indiana which included guidance for churches, and we have been doing our best to adhere to the guidelines presented to us for each stage. Our target date of re-gathering on June 14 coincides with the beginning of Stage 4 of “Back on Track in Indiana” which is when gathering size guidelines change from no more than 100 people (in Stage 3) to up to 250 people.

**3. WHY 2 SERVICE TIMES OF 9:00 AM AND 11:15 AM?**

The 6-foot social distancing guidelines will still be in effect throughout the summer. In order to space our seating accordingly in the worship room, we will need to remove roughly half of the chairs. The reduction in the number of chairs in the room will require us to increase the number of worship services. Therefore we will be offering two identical worship services to accommodate everyone who would like to attend.

**4. WHY SO MUCH TIME IN BETWEEN THE SERVICES?**

The church building will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to each worship gathering. The cleaning and sanitation process takes roughly one hour. In order to be fully prepared for the 11:15 AM service, we will need one hour for cleaning after the 9:00 AM service concludes.

**5. WILL CHILDREN’S CLASSES AND ACTIVITES RESUME ON JUNE 14?**

No. There will be no nursery, pre-school, or elementary classes or activities at either worship service time. All ages will attend the worship service in the auditorium at both 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM. The “Back on Track in Indiana” guidance requests that we wait to resume children’s classes and activities until area schools reopen.

**6. WHAT ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS?**

We are working toward potential solutions for Adult and Youth Sunday School, but initially no classes will be held for Adults or Youth when we re-gather for worship on June 14.

**7. WHAT ABOUT SMALL GROUPS?**

We encourage small groups to begin meeting whenever they are comfortable doing so, keeping social distancing guidelines and safety for all in mind.

**8. WILL THE WORSHIP SERVICES CONTINUE TO BE STREAMED ONLINE?**

Yes. The worship services will still be available to watch online each week.

We will be communicating more information and specifics with you in the coming days that will help you fully prepare for re-gathering on June 14.

Additionally your Shepherding Elder will be reaching out to you to answer any questions you might have.

We look forward to seeing you in person very soon!

Much love,

Matthew Rogers

Lead Minister