

Greetings, Church Family!

Before outlining the plan for our reopening, it is important for you to hear the heart behind the decisions. First, we are called to love our neighbors. Jesus commands us to do this. Sometimes, it is difficult to see how to show this love to our neighbors. This is not one of those times. In the context of current events, we believe the best way for our Church to love our neighbors is to do what we can to avoid exposing people to this virus. It also means not contributing to the problem by gathering too soon or not taking necessary steps to protect our brothers and sisters.

Secondly, in Romans 13, Christ's followers are told to submit to governmental authority. The only time the Church should oppose government is if we are instructed to act contradictory to our faith. At no point have our state's leaders mandated churches close their buildings. However, they have advised it and we, like most churches, have followed that advice. The simple fact is that we want to lean on the insight of those who are experts in the medical community.

As we open this Sunday, May 31st, for a limited service, please understand the morning will consist of a message and communion only at 10:15 am. **We will reopen for a full worship service on June 7th at 10:15.** There are steps that must be taken to ensure that we are good stewards of the liberty that we have been given. Our liberty should not be asserted at the expense of Christian charity toward each other and our neighbors. As a result, our service will look different in some aspects. **There will be no adult Sunday School nor children's classes until further notice.**

As you enter the building, there are some things to take note of.

- Each person serving will be wearing a mask and will have had a temperature check.
- We ask that you use **hand sanitizer** as you enter the building and at other times while in the building.
- We highly encourage the use of a **mask**. Let's protect each other. (There will be a limited supply of masks available if you do not have one.)
- You may sit in family groups, but please notice the marked seats to maintain **social distancing**.
- **Communion** will be available as you enter the sanctuary on a table. Please take with you to your seat. (The bag that holds the communion elements will also serve as a way to dispose of the trash. There will be trash baskets at the end of pews and as you exit to dispose of the trash as you leave the sanctuary.)
- **Offering** buckets will be at the doors as you leave or you may continue to utilize the online giving options.
- Please practice safe **social distancing** by staying at least 6 feet apart. Do not shake hands, hug, nor gather in the lobby. (We know this is hard!)

We will continue to provide our online digital service for those who are not yet comfortable returning to the building. **Please do not attend if you are sick, symptomatic, or have recently been exposed to COVID-19. We encourage those who are in a high risk group to attend online instead of in-person.**

We look forward to worshipping together! Please be patient and understanding of the precautions that must be taken at this time. Let us love one another!