

May 27, 2020

Dear Members of Emmanuel,

It has been nearly two and half months since we have had the blessing of coming together as God's people, for worship in His holy house. This has been a trying and difficult time for all of us to have to experience. Since our President has declared Churches an essential part of our American society, we are planning on opening our doors up for a worship service this coming Sunday, May 31st at 10:30am. This Sunday we will be celebrating the Feast of Pentecost. What a perfect time this is to join with one another in worshipping our Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As the Heavenly Father poured out His Spirit on Jesus followers that first Pentecost Sunday, may He also abundantly pour His Spirit out on you, me, and all believers.

As a way for us to be able to safely gather for worship and to adhere to the directions sent to us by the Lenawee County Health Department, the Board of Elders and I have set in place some guidelines to follow. These are being provided to you for your safety and health, as well as for the protection of all who wish to come for worship at Emmanuel. Here are the guidelines:

1. If you are concerned for your safety, please stay home and continue watching the service online.
2. If you are sick or have been exposed to someone who might have the virus, please stay home and watch the service online.
3. The only areas open in the church building will be the sanctuary, the upstairs narthex, the upstairs bathrooms, and the path between the basement doors and the stairways.
4. The sanctuary will be sanitized after the service.
5. Masks should be worn for your protection, as well as for the safety of others. If you feel comfortable wearing gloves, please do so.
6. Sanitizer containers will be available for use as you enter the church building.
7. When entering the church, please do not shake hands or give hugs.
8. Bulletins will be on the pedestal for you to take as you enter the sanctuary.
9. Seating will be marked with every other pew blocked off with tape. Your household may sit closer than 6 ft. Each family and individuals will sit at least 6 ft. apart.
10. Communion will be administered Pilgrim style (one line) and there will be an usher to release you to go forward for communion to assist in conforming with social distancing. Pastor will be at the end of the center aisle giving you the bread with a glove on. You will move right, or left, to receive the individual cup of wine. Once you have received the elements you may return to your seat down the side aisle. If you are unable to come up for communion, Pastor will come to you.
11. When the service ends the usher will release you to leave. People will be released from back to front to minimize close contact. Please exit the church building immediately out the appropriate doors!
12. Since the virus can be more easily spread through respiratory droplets, when singing please do so at a minimized level.

We realize these are unusual and trying times. We very much look forward to worshipping together again in the Lord's house. Following these guidelines should help to keep us all safe. If you do not feel comfortable returning yet, that is perfectly acceptable. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding concerning our present situation.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please contact Pastor McCarty or one of the Elders.

In service to the King,

Pastor McCarty and the Board of Elders