

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” (Psalm 122:1). These are the inspired words of David who rejoiced at the opportunity to return to the temple for worship. We also are eager for the day to come when we can gather again in God’s house and enjoy the blessing of fellowship in His house. Even as we have had opportunities for worship virtually, and in the parking lot, we know that Scripture encourages us to: **“not give up meeting together... and encouraging one another. (Hebrews 10:25).** And so our goal will be opening up and restoring our “in person” worship in a safe and responsible manner in the weeks to come.

We are now beginning a new stage in our plan to gradually return to services inside our beautiful church and sanctuary. For the next two Sundays, May 10th and May 17th, we will continue our drive-in parking lot communion services at 10:00 a.m. Beginning Thursday, May 21st we will return to an indoor service at 7:00 p.m. Per Indiana’s Stage 2 regulations this service will be limited to a total of 25 people. This service will be a good practice session for implementing all of our safety protocols and restrictions that are recommended by the CDC and the state of Indiana, which will be detailed later in this message.

Beginning the following Sunday, May 24th at 9:00 a.m. we can assemble in a maximum group of 100. However, due to physical distancing and the size of our sanctuary we will be limited to approximately 70 people per service. With our average attendance between 100 and 110 people we will need to split the total attending between the Sunday and Thursday night services so we have 60 to 70 at the Sunday service and 35 to 45 or so at the Thursday night service.

A “verbal commitment” to attend the Thursday night services from 40 to 50 members should be sufficient to regulate the attendance.

Please remember that this will be a work-in-progress and we will always be looking for ways to improve on the safety and wellbeing of our congregation. ***Details for arriving, attending, and departing our indoor services are as follows:***

- Upon arriving at church, please be mindful of others who are also arriving and practice physical distancing. Face coverings are required. We know some may be reluctant to wear a face covering, but we feel this is a minor inconvenience considering how much more this act of brotherly love will help protect the more vulnerable in our congregation. If someone does not have a face covering we will give you one that was made by some of the members of our church. These face coverings can and should be washed after each use. They will be yours to keep and reuse at the next services. Remember to practice physical distancing when walking into the church. A Deacon or Elder may be posted to help remind everyone of the requirements for face coverings, distancing, hand sanitizing, etc.
- Once inside, you will be asked to use the hand sanitizer that will be available at the door. Offering plates will be positioned at the main entry doors to the sanctuary. You can place your offering in the offering plates either when entering or leaving the sanctuary. We would also like to remind everyone of the availability of Egiving. It is a convenient way to give and also is one more deterrent to stem the spread of the coronavirus. [Trinity Egiving Link](#)
- You will be ushered into the sanctuary and seated by the Deacons. First arrivals will be seated in the front pews and we will continue to seat people working toward the back of the church maximizing the seating as best as possible. This way new arrivals are not walking past someone who is already seated. Every other pew will be blocked off to meet distancing requirements and we will seat 4 people per pew in combinations of 2 and 2, 1 and 3, etc., if possible. Families of 4 or more can all sit together in the same pew. The idea being, if you can reach out and touch fingers with someone not in your immediate family, you are too close. By sitting at opposite ends of the pew we should be able to meet the distancing requirements.
- Communion distribution will also have some changes. Participants will remain in their seats and the Elders will pass down the aisles and distribute a small plastic cup with one wafer and an individual cup of wine to each person. After communion is administered Deacons will pass down the aisle with a vessel to dispose of the empty cups.
- As a precaution, the restroom in the preschool hall has been designated as a quarantine service area in the event that someone may become ill during service. The person will be directed to that restroom with access to the adjoining classroom where we will provide a place to sit until someone arrives to help them.

- At the end of service, Deacons will release attendees starting at the back pews and regulate distancing practices as everyone leaves the church. There will be no Fellowship time or Sunday School classes after service. Please proceed directly to your vehicles without congregating.

Services will be conducted in this manner until the CDC and the state of Indiana remove the physical distancing requirements and we can return to full unrestricted services.