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June 2, 2020

Dear Beloved Ones of CUMC,

Beginning June 14th, we plan to open the church building for in-person worship services on Sundays. The times will be as before:

9:00 am Contemporary Worship in Carl Parish Hall

10:30 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary.

We will continue to offer an online worship experience which can be accessed from our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Our practice will be quite different than normal when we gather so that we follow social distancing and sanitation guidelines for COVID-19. Following John Wesley's simple rules, we will seek to do no harm. This plan was developed adhering to guidelines set forth by the State of Indiana's Back on Track recommendations and our insurance carrier.

Here is a description for what you can expect to experience if you choose to come for in-person worship.

- Signs have been posted on all entry doors listing the Covid symptoms and instructing people not to enter if feeling unwell. Please exercise personal responsibility and care for neighbor.
- Hand sanitizer is located at each entry and we ask everyone to use it upon entering the building. (Automatic dispensers are on back order).
- All who attend, work or volunteer should wear face masks.
- In order to reduce the amount of spaces to disinfect, we have closed the west entrance. Please use the canopy entrance or the office entrance (north).
- There will be a greeter at the north entrances to count attendance and give directions. Because of social distancing limitations, if we reach seating capacity before you arrive, we will kindly invite you to return home and join us for online worship.
- There will be no beverages or food served. The water fountains are shutoff.
- Seating in the commons has been removed. The children and youth areas in the commons and Carl Parish Hall have been removed. The nursery is closed. We ask that families sit together.
- Sunday School for children, youth and adults will continue to be online only. The 3rd floor rooms are closed to reduce the need to disinfect. The sanctuary balcony is open.

- Seating will follow social distancing guidelines.
 - ~ To minimize the movement near each other, we ask that you fill the seating from front to back rather than sitting in your normal spots. We will dismiss from back rows to front.
 - ~ At 9:00am, the rows of chairs will be 6 feet apart and each person/family will be asked to sit with four empty chairs between them and the next person/family.
 - ~ At 10:30am, every other pew will be closed. Each pew will hold 1 family or 2 couples or 2 singles.
- Someone will use a disinfectant wipe on door handles, handrails, and elevator buttons after each service starts and after each service ends.
- There will be no bibles, hymnals, bulletins, prayer books or attendance pads in the seats. Prayer requests can always be given to the church office through email, phone message or website.
- A locked box for financial offerings will be located at the rear of each worship area. We will not pass plates/baskets.
- Current science suggests that singing produces aerosol breath that can travel twice as far as normal breathing even with masks. Therefore, we will not have congregational singing, choir or large praise band. We will have special music.
- Holy Communion will not be shared in person in June. The congregation is invited to gather on online through Zoom (by internet or phone) on June 9 at 7:00pm.

The church building remains closed for any other groups, events or ministries. Church Council will assess the situation at their next meeting on June 15th and any updates will be communicated to the congregation in the Friday e-newsletters.

THIS ENTIRE PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE based on new health department data, government restrictions, and prayerful wisdom of the collective church leadership.

Friends, I know we do not all agree about what are the right things to do in this unusual season. I know many people are struggling to make good decisions for themselves and their families about when and how to interact with others. Please know that God is with you. Be gentle with yourself and receive the grace God will give you whether you choose to go fast or slow. Remember that we are a people born of and rooted in LOVE.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:12-13)

Grace and peace be yours in abundance,



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