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May 3, 2020

Dear Church Family,

I am pleased to be able to write and inform you that we will resume conducting worship services at Mt. Zion beginning Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, May 1, the Platte County Health Department (PCHD) amended its order regarding restrictions on gatherings of 10 or more. The order now states that “mass gatherings in indoor environments, whether spontaneous or scheduled, are limited to ten (10) people or ten percent (10%) of the facility’s authorized fire or building code occupancy limit as set by local authorities, whichever is greater.” Based on input from our Fire Protection District, we will be able to have 80 people in the building for Sunday worship.

Using a question and answer format, the following will provide more details about how we plan to conduct services as safely as possible in compliance with the requirements of health authorities.

### **WHO CAN ATTEND?**

Anyone is welcome to attend, using your own discretion. There is no way to eliminate risk of exposure to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, we can only seek to minimize risk. Therefore, if you or someone in your household is vulnerable, it is recommended to avoid attending.

### **WHEN AND WHERE WILL SERVICES BE HELD?**

Beginning Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, a single Sunday worship service will be held in the CLC at 10:30am until the PCHD order is changed. Our plans will then be revised accordingly.

### **WILL PERSONAL INFORMATION BE TAKEN IF I ATTEND?**

No. The PCHD order states, “When reasonably achievable, all businesses are encouraged to collect names and contact information of persons, including clients, entering a facility.” It is not considered reasonably achievable in our context and therefore, contact information will not be collected.

## **WILL THERE BE SUNDAY SCHOOL?**

Each class will need to decide how and when to meet. Using classrooms at Mt. Zion will not be possible as long as social distancing of six feet (6') is required. It is possible for classes to meet in the CLC, providing that meeting times are staggered, and cleaning is done at the end of class. Most classes have been meeting using Zoom for online videoconferencing/teleconferencing. Each class will have the option of continuing to use Zoom, or of arranging a time to meet in the CLC. Your Sunday School teacher will provide information about your class.

## **WILL THERE BE ANYTHING AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN?**

Children are welcome to attend the worship service. Currently, there are no plans for nursery, children's church or children's Sunday school classes. We look forward to resuming those as soon as it is feasible.

## **WHAT MEASURES WILL BE IN PLACE TO AVOID RISK?**

While there is no way to eliminate the risk of spreading infection, the following measures will be taken to minimize risk:

- Maintain social distancing of six feet (6') between people not of the same household
  - When finding a seat, four chairs=six feet. Leaving a space of four chair widths between you and others not of your household will provide the proper spacing. This includes front-to-back and side-to-side.
  - When standing or walking, seek to maintain a minimum distance of six feet between you and others not of your household.
- Entering/Exiting
  - Only the south doors of the CLC will be open for entering and exiting the building.
  - Entering/exiting creates the potential for a bottleneck to occur. To avoid this problem, note the following:
    - Separate doors will be marked "Entrance" and "Exit" in order to maintain social distancing for those who may be entering or exiting the building at the same time.
    - When entering the building, please wait until you are able to maintain 6' of distance from others who are entering.
  - At the end of the service, dismissal will take place by rows from back to front.
    - Ushers will assist in dismissing by rows, so watch for their guidance before exiting your row.
- Offering
  - Offering plates will not be passed during the service.
  - Collection points will be set up near the CLC doors for those who choose to give.

- Bulletins
  - Song lyric sheets with any bulletin announcements will be distributed by greeters who will be wearing gloves and masks as you enter.
- Restrooms
  - The restrooms on the lower level of the CLC will be available.
- Access
  - Access to the building on Sundays will be limited to the lower level of the CLC.
  - Limiting access will accomplish two goals:
    - It limits the parts of the building which must be cleaned after the service.
    - It separates the areas used for worship gatherings and for Blessings of Life daycare, which has its own set of additional requirements.
- Masks and gloves
  - Will not be required to attend.
  - Will be required for those who cannot maintain social distancing because of the duties which they perform. For example, greeters will be required to wear masks and gloves because they will be opening doors for people and handing out song sheets to those entering the building.
- Recording
  - The service will be recorded and made available both online and on CD, for those requesting it.
  - A live-streaming option is being considered but is not currently available.

### **HOW WILL EVERYONE KNOW WHAT TO DO?**

Greeters, ushers and members of the Safety Team will be available to help provide guidance. Signage will also be in place to help where needed. These changes will be new to everyone, so an attitude of grace will help to make things go smoothly.

In closing, I think that our shared experience has helped us all to gain a greater appreciation of the declaration in Psalm 122:1,

“I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

Your pastor,

Jon Denney