

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Cornerstone,

5-15-20

Grace and Peace to each of you! Many of you are well aware by now of the plans to offer a worship service in the auditorium instead of the parking lot this coming Sunday. I want to take a few minutes and write to you with some of the details of how we arrived at this decision as well as some of the procedures that we will have in place for this coming Sunday and going forward. As time goes on we will carefully review other recommendations and council that either encourages us to lighten or increase these practices.

Throughout this time of sheltering in place I have availed myself to participate in many meetings with other pastors and leaders of churches in Stark county and Holmes county. While the COVID-19 virus is something that is strange, new and frightening to all of us, the scriptures tell us that there is safety in the multitude of counsel. Some of these men and women who were participants of our meetings sit on area health boards and could speak directly to us from the information that these organizations were compiling also.

I have also endeavored to be in many listening conversations with you the members of CCC. Along with your counsel, insights, recommendations, cautions and much prayer we as a board of elders felt that after one more parking lot service, which was last week, we should begin to move forward towards reopening. I have also personally been in touch with the Stark county board of Health who has directly responded to me with a list of recommendations for churches in Stark county that are restarting at this time. Their recommendations were updated on May 13, 2020. I have also notified the Hartville Police to inform them that we are meeting this Sunday. All of this effort was carried out with the intention of making a wise and informed decision. I realize that not everyone is at the same place with when and how we should open.

But before going any further, ***we want you to know that we respect you and your decision to either attend or to not attend and whole heartedly affirm you in making that call for yourself and your family.*** We love you, we bless you and we pray that your heart will be encouraged whether you choose to worship with us in person, or whether you choose to worship with us online.

If you plan to attend, we highly encourage you to observe the following:

1. Conduct a self-assessment of your own health when you get up on Sunday morning. If you have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher do not attend the service.
2. If you are elderly (and), (or younger), your health is compromised in any way, or if you have young children that will struggle to stay seated and away from others, we encourage you to follow with us from home and enjoy the online service that will be live streamed.
3. We will also provide an infrared thermometer to take your temperature upon entry into the building.
4. Wearing of a face mask or face covering is highly encouraged for this Sunday. If you do not have your own mask but would like to attend, disposable masks will be available to you.

5. Doors will be propped open to minimize the risk of touching handles.
6. Hand washing or use of hand sanitizer is recommended upon entry. Men's and Women's restrooms will be open for this purpose. Sanitizer and disinfecting supplies will be provided in the foyer and the restrooms.
7. The church will be deep cleaned and sanitized in the areas of high travel before and after the service.
8. Ushers will be available to usher you in and out of the auditorium. Please wait for them.
9. Seating will be available to you singly, as a couple, or as a family that has been sheltering together. All seating units will be seated approximately six feet apart.
10. Do not expect to sit in your usual seat but allow for flexibility as the ushers seat you.
11. Handshakes, hugging etc... are strongly discouraged.
12. No offering or communion plate will be passed. An offering box is available in the back of the auditorium.
13. No bulletins or any other written information will be handed to you but will be available for those who desire to have one on the new welcome kiosk as you walk into the foyer.
14. There will be no childcare or children's Sunday school provided. We encourage you, if necessary, to utilize the children's activity packets that have been carefully cleaned and disinfected before the service.
15. We encourage families to leave promptly after the services and discourage any congregating in the back of the church or in the parking lot.
16. We will offer an optional communion service that will have minimal physical contact. You are welcome to take part or decline for either physical or spiritual reasons.

Again, I am looking forward to pressing the "Reset Button" this coming Sunday. This is the first phase and as time goes on and when we feel that the timing is right, we will move into the next phase where we explore opening the Sunday School, Nursery and resume the face to face Bible studies and meetings that were taking place during the week before we were directed to shelter in place.

We the elder team continue to welcome your questions, your concern and your suggestions. Above all, be kind one to another tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

Much love,

Pastor Ron