

Dear brothers & sisters,

5/13/20

The Session has been meeting regularly to pray and discuss ways to continue worship & serving during this time. We have also asked for the Lord's leading in helping us to discern the best time to physically regather for worship and ministry. Our goal as elders has been to follow and glorify God's leading, to care for the safety of one another, and to be good citizens of our community in all these decisions. We believe with the current government recommendations, and the implementation of safety care processes, that this is a good time to come back together in worship.

We think it is best to proceed with caution through different phases towards physically meeting together in all areas of ministry. Our first phase of transition will begin on **May 24<sup>th</sup>** and will focus on re-establishing our **10:30 a.m. worship time on Sunday mornings** and in person **officer meetings**. The worship service will offer physically distanced seating in the sanctuary and livestream seating in the fellowship hall. Family units will sit in every other pew at opposite ends of the pew. Chair seating spaced similarly will be available downstairs in the fellowship hall. We hope to be able to meet together this way as a community during this time. We know some in our church community will not be comfortable returning at this time due to individual risk factors. We want you to know we love you, understand your decision, and hope you will continue to engage with us by worshiping online.

***What are we doing to make this a safer experience?*** In addition to spaced seating, we will ask each person to enter the building through the main entrance and sanitize their hands. We will eliminate paper bulletins for the foreseeable future and will project all announcements onto the screens. We will provide an offering box in both locations with a deposit slot in the top for giving your offering when you arrive or exit the worship service. You will still be able to give online as well. We will postpone the celebration of sacraments so we can focus on establishing good practices of worship in these new times. The choir will not be utilized in full at this time, but there may be opportunities for one or two individuals to offer special music. The elders will be cleaning the sanctuary and fellowship hall after worship and our typical church cleaning will still take place prior to our service. We'd ask that you'd call or email to setup appointments with the pastor.

***What can I do?*** I think the best way to answer this question is for all of us to think of one another and not just think of our own perspectives as we meet together. If you are sick and have symptoms of fever, cold, cough, or shortness of breath please stay home. If you believe you've been in direct contact with someone that has the virus please stay home during the potential 14 day incubation period. You should be 24 hours free of symptoms like fever, vomiting and diarrhea due to illness at any time. We will have hand sanitizer but would ask you to bring hand sanitizer with you because of the current expense and availability of it. The use of masks is recommended but not required for worship or meetings. We understand best practice involves people physically distancing at least 6 feet. Some folks are comfortable coming closer but please be considerate of the other person's preferences and be gracious and honest with each other. Greet one another with a wave, bow, elbow bump, or air high five instead of a handshake or hug (Be creative!). We will "close" the water fountain downstairs as a precaution and ask you to consider bringing your own full water bottle. There is a lot to consider, but all of these items are intended to allow for the continued privilege of worshipping our God together and providing for the welfare of each other. We look forward to being together on May 24!

Together in Christ with you,

Pastor Patrick

Pastor Patrick and all the elders at Mountville