



Connecting People to the Good News about Jesus

June 5, 2020

To: Members and Friends of Good News Church

From: The Session of Good News Church

Subject: Good News Church in-person worship services to resume on June 14 at 10 am

1 Cor 10:31 - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Phil 2:2-4 – ...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Rom 13:1-2 - Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

As God's people and the body of Christ, we at Good News Church seek to be guided by God's Word in all that we do. The above verses highlight several key biblical principles we are called to embrace as we prepare to gather once again for corporate worship on June 14 – walking together in Christ-centered humility and unity as we seek to bring glory to God, protect our congregation and obey the government authorities to the best of our ability.

The Session and Staff of Good News Church thank you all for your patience during the closure period, and we look forward with great anticipation to the gathering of God's people once again. We recognize that some people may not be able, or may not feel comfortable, to attend a worship service at this time, and therefore, we will be livestreaming the service on the Good News Church Facebook page for viewing at home. Please consult our *Good News Connections* email newsletter of June 4 for instructions on viewing our livestream service on Facebook. A recording of the worship service will also be available on our church website (goodnewschurch.online) sometime the following week.

At the end of this letter, we provide guidelines for our in-person worship services effective June 14. If you are planning to attend, we ask that you review these guidelines carefully and prayerfully commit yourself to following them. A team consisting of the Security Committee, Staff and Session has worked diligently to develop guidelines which are designed to meet the guidance from the Delaware Governor's office while protecting the health of our congregation. We thank you all in advance for your patience and grace as we work together to gather once again for worship.

If you have any questions about the guidelines, please contact your shepherding elder or email the church office at office@goodnewschurch.online.

To God be the glory!

Guidelines for Good News Church (GNC) Worship Services Effective June 14, 2020

- Vulnerable individuals who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (based on CDC guidelines, e.g. age 65 or older, underlying serious medical conditions; see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/groups-at-higher-risk.html>) may want to consider worshipping at home for the time being; however, each person will need to make their own decision whether to attend.
- For people choosing to attend the worship service, the Delaware Division of Public Health has asked all to abide by the following rules:
 - Do not enter our church building if you have a cough, high fever, shortness of breath or if you have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive with COVID-19 in the past fourteen (14) days.
 - Individuals age thirteen (13) and up are required to wear a cloth face covering to enter our church building and while remaining inside (a cloth face covering is recommended but not required for children ages 2-12).
 - At all times, individuals who are not part of the same household should maximize physical distance from others and remain at least six (6) feet apart when inside our church building – handshaking, hugging, or kissing is discouraged.
 - Proper handwashing and frequent use of hand sanitizer is encouraged.
- The worship service begins promptly at 10:00 am and is expected to last no more than an hour.
- We suggest arriving at the church by 9:30 am so that you have enough time to be seated by the ushers before the start of the service. Please note that seating in the main sanctuary and balcony will be limited to achieve proper social distancing, and overflow seating will be in the Welcome Center and Fellowship Hall where the service will be viewed on livestream.
- Enter through the office door on the right side of the front of the church building, which will be marked by an entrance sign. A greeter will meet you as you enter and will direct you to ushers who will seat you in a designated area for safe social distancing. All other church entrance doors will be locked from the outside entrance.
- Families must always remain together when within the church building. There will not be a Children’s Church. The gym, kitchen, classrooms, and offices will be closed.
- Congregants must keep their masks on during the entire service, even during singing, unless prohibited by health reasons. The praise team and worship service leaders may possibly remove their masks at various times during the service but will ensure more than adequate social distancing between themselves and the congregation.
- At the end of the service, please wait to be dismissed row by row by the ushers. Please leave the building promptly after being dismissed.
- An offering will not be taken during the worship service, and a box will be provided in the Narthex for the giving of tithes and offerings. As always you can mail a check or give online using the Good News Church giving app.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available for your use.
- All are encouraged to use the restroom before leaving home. However, restrooms will be available if needed, and we encourage you to practice proper social distancing and hand washing.
- Water fountains will not be accessible, so please plan to bring your own water if needed. Welcome Center coffee and snacks will not be served.
- In-person Sunday School will not be offered at this time.