



Updated Thursday, May 28, 2020

Greetings, Olivet! We hope this letter finds both your body and soul doing well in the Lord. We are excited to announce that we will begin gathering for corporate worship once again starting **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** And we will continue this schedule for the time being.

As we begin gathering again, we know that there are questions in everyone's mind concerning what things are going to look like moving forward. Below we have tried to anticipate and answer your most prominent questions. If you have additional questions, we encourage you to reach out to one of our pastors (see the membership directory for contact information).

### **1. What if I am sick or don't feel 100%?**

Out of love for others, please stay home and worship with us online.

### **2. What if I am in the high-risk category?**

We are encouraging those who are in the high-risk category to stay home and worship with us online. That being said, we know that there will be some of you in this category who will elect to join us for corporate worship anyway. Obviously, that is your call to make. We trust you to make the right decision for your situation. Our basic encouragement to everyone is just to be wise and prayerful as we ease back into gathering for corporate worship.

### **3. What if I still don't feel comfortable about gathering for worship?**

That's fine. No one's forcing you to gather again. Go at your own pace and don't feel guilt for not attending during this unique season. When you do feel ready to join us, we will welcome you with open arms!

### **4. Will online services, sermons, and worship guides still be provided?**

Yes. We plan to stream the worship gathering on Facebook Live starting at 10 a.m. each Sunday. As always, we will upload the sermons to our website. We will also continue to send out worship guides each weekend for people to walk through on their own, with their families, etc. As in previous weeks, the worship guide will follow the sermon text and provide discussion questions and prayer points.

### **5. Where should we park and enter the building?**

We are asking everyone to park and enter on the north or east side of the building.

### **6. What about masks?**

Masks are optional. We will have a few masks available in the foyer for those who would like one. If the fact that others might not wear masks concerns you, refer back to question #3.

## **7. What about Sunday morning classes, childcare, community groups, etc.?**

The only thing we are adding to our weekly calendar at this point is the Sunday morning worship gathering. We will not be offering classes, childcare, or community groups for the time being.

## **8. How will seating be configured in the worship center?**

Once you enter the building, we encourage you to immediately go into the worship center and be seated. Everyone will enter the worship center at the east end (i.e. the back) and exit at the northwest end (i.e. the front). Attendees who are not a part of the same household will be spaced at least six feet apart. We will also be limiting seating to every other row to ensure proper social distancing.

## **9. How should we welcome one another?**

Smile and wave. Do an “air-high-five.” Maybe even the “Washington bow.” ☺ But please, don’t shake hands, hug, or “greet one another with a holy kiss” (Rom. 16:16) for now. ☺

## **10. What about families with young children?**

Seeing that “social distancing” doesn’t exactly come natural to children, we ask that children stay with their parents at all times. Enter as a family, sit as a family, and exit as a family.

## **11. What other prudent steps will we be taking to ensure everyone’s safety?**

Greeters will be there to welcome you but not shake your hand. All worship center doors will be propped open. Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the building. Food, coffee, and tea will not be provided. Bulletins will not be provided. Hymnals, Bibles, Connect cards, giving envelopes, and pens will be removed from the backs of pews (i.e. bring your own Bible). Instead of passing the offering bags, we will have an offering box at the front of the worship center for you to place your offering in as you leave. At the end of our gathering, we will dismiss everyone in an orderly fashion to ensure proper social distancing. The playground will be off limits. The building will be cleaned immediately after our gathering.

## **12. When will we return to “normal” again?**

Good question. We are taking things a week at a time. We will continue to see how everything unfolds and go from there.

## **13. What should I keep at the forefront of my mind during all of this?**

This would be a wonderful time for all of us to memorize Ephesians 4:1-2. Paul says, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, *with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*” God has called us to be a people marked by humility, gentleness, patience, love, and peace. We may disagree with one another on a whole host of things connected to the coronavirus crisis, but, as followers of Jesus, we *WILL* work for unity and peace by relating to one another with all humility, gentleness, patience, and love.