



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST, TO ONE ANOTHER, AND TO SERVICE

December 18, 2020

Dear Church Family,

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. —Romans 15:13*

During this unprecedented time of uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our GCCC family has sought ways to embrace each other, our neighbors, and our communities in spiritual, tangible, and innovative ways. Never have we been so humbled to see God's hand in leading us through the emotional ups and downs of this pandemic.

As the church leadership team has considered whether to reopen with worship services in the New Year, we remain committed to the health and safety of all members of GCCC, and the common good of our friends and neighbors.

The Leadership Team has come to the decision, after prayer and discernment, to return to in-person gatherings on January 3, 2021. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we maneuver through these changes brought upon us because of the pandemic. We will continue to monitor the situation and listen to local health care officials, as well as our state governor and his coronavirus task force, to make any needed changes or adaptations in the future. We will continue to have the worship service live streamed via our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/user/gccc812](http://www.youtube.com/user/gccc812)) each Sunday morning, and you will be able to watch a recorded version of the service on our website ([www.gardencitychurch.com/media](http://www.gardencitychurch.com/media)), usually by the end of the Monday.

At this time, we will suspend our Sunday School program through the month of January. We will continue to monitor this situation and make changes as conditions improve.

We will follow similar guidelines for safety measures as were presented when we reopened last June.

- We encourage those members over the age of 65 or those with underlying health issues to continue complying with the suggestion to stay home.
- To help mitigate the spread of the virus, we *strongly recommend* that individuals wear face masks. Remember, this is not only for your safety but also for the safety of others. In addition, we will continue to use the Fellowship Hall for a mask required area where the service will be streamed live.
- We will continue to provide hand sanitizing stations throughout the church and encourage the use of them.
- We will reinstitute the practice of the Deacons assisting and directing your entrance and exit of the sanctuary and the church. We will be dismissed by rows to alleviate groups of people gathering and fellowshiping without adhering to social distancing guidelines of 6 feet between each person.
- We will be handing out bulletins at the entrance to the sanctuary as we were prior to closing the church for the November/December services.
- Households will need to sit together. We ask people who are not part of the same household to maintain the social distance of 6 feet, so some seating will be limited.
- We will continue to use the communion juice and wafer provided in a prepackaged cup.

Be assured that your GCCC leaders take the responsibility of providing a safe place for worship very seriously. These decisions were arrived at with much prayer and discussion. We will adjust these steps as the conditions of the Covid-19 improve or change in Bartholomew County and the state. As always, we will follow the rules and suggestions of the governor (Romans 13).

In these difficult and trying times, we must remember God is watching over us every moment of the day, just like a bodyguard would. Everything in life is Father-filtered — even the hard things caused by our sin or others' sin — God can still use for His good.

That means God's power protects you: *“And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation”* (1 Peter 1:5 NLT).

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, remember the promise He brings to us of hope and peace.

May God's peace and everlasting love be with you and your family,

The GCCC Leadership Team