



Jackson Park church family,

As *some* restrictions have been lifted across our state, our church leadership has prayed and sought wisdom in formulating a plan for beginning the in-person assemblies at Jackson Park. The shepherds have looked at the models from several congregations and tried to adapt these to fit our own contextual needs. The leadership has arrived at an interpretive philosophy after viewing the guidelines and recommendations from both Mayor Cooper and Governor Lee. We feel like the plan we have chosen is safe and practical given the size and layout of our building. The leadership understands with the size of our church body, we have many people with various opinions on what needs to be done. You are encouraged to voice your concerns or thoughts to anyone on the leadership team--we are here to serve you! The shepherds are grateful for your patience and understanding and ask for you supportive prayers going forward.

On Sunday, June 14th, at 10:30am, we will begin in-person assemblies. At this time, we are not posting a limited number of congregants that can worship together. In view of the number participating in our worship services over the last several weeks, we have little reason to be concerned at the moment. The plan we have put in place will safely serve the 50-80 worship participants for the time being. Nevertheless, if there begins to be an issue with our number of participants, (which is a good problem to have) we are prepared to go with alternate arrangements to accommodate the space needed to continue safely worshipping together.

As information concerning COVID-19 continues to change, we ask for your patience and prayers. For now, we will focus on the Sunday morning gatherings only. We will not have Bible classes. We commit to communicating effectively in the future about other ministries, Bible classes, in-person activities, and the use of the building, etc.

Here is some information that we want you to know:

- Please stay home if you or your loved ones are at high risk due to COVID-19. Please stay home if you are sick or have been in contact with someone who is sick.
- Online messages continue to be available and can be watched throughout the day on Jackson Park's youtube channel. Bulletins will continue to be emailed or sent via postal mail to reduce touch points.
- Entry doors will be propped open before and after worship to avoid high touch spots. We are adhering to the spacing recommendation of

two empty pews between social bubble groups (family groups or social groups who have isolated together).

- Specified restrooms are going to be open; but congregating will not be allowed. The water fountain will not be available.
- For the auditorium to be our safest space, face coverings are necessary. (“A face mask is a small sacrifice to make in order to worship together.” -- Scott Trew) Of course, face coverings can be removed during singing and the Lord’s Supper.
- If you wish to use a hymnal, please take the hymnal with you and bring back and forth to worship. This also reduces our “touch points”.
- Communion will be the same as these last few weeks. Feel free to bring your own communion supplies as well if you wish. If you have the ability to give online, we encourage that as the primary option.
- Please avoid handshaking or hugs.
- At the end of the service, depending on the number in attendance, we plan to dismiss by rows or sections to help with the social distancing.
- The auditorium and restrooms will be sanitized after each service.

Lastly, we challenge you to pray thanksgiving and celebrate the following along with us:

- Jackson Park is still a gathering of believers seeking to live and love like Jesus. We are grateful for the gift of God’s Grace extended to us through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We understand that living and loving like Jesus is a journey. Our Jackson Park family continues to be on this journey together. We will continue to strive together to discover what that means for us and the community around us.
- Our desire to follow Jesus has not changed! To love others after the model of Jesus is a lifestyle--not a service, not a belief system. Whether our building is open or closed, We are the Church.
- We need each other. We all have a deep need to belong. Our goal moving forward is to bring others into the family so that we can offer healing to each person and each family.

Jesus is Lord!  
Elders & Ministers