

Dear Church Family,

We are in a season of life and ministry like I have never experienced before. I appreciate the hard work of the staff and the patience and understanding of the congregation. We want to return to “normal” and regular public worship services as soon as possible, but we want to do it safely and responsibly.

At this time, the drive-in service at 8:30 AM on Sunday morning is our best option to come together and yet practice social distancing.

Even though the governor has given churches permission to return to public worship as long as they practice social distancing, it just doesn't seem to be a viable option for us at this time. This week I have consulted with staff and some of the lay leadership of the congregation and we have agreed to the following guiding principles when it comes to returning to our building.

- 1) Public worship in our building will NOT happen before Monticello reaches stage 4 on the governor's “Back on Track” plan for Indiana. This time-line for a return to our building is also supported and recommended by our Bishop's office in Indiana. We will continue to conduct our 9:30 Classic Service and 11:00 Current service and broadcast those services by way of Radio, delayed cable broadcast, Facebook live and our website.
- 2) The Daycare will continue to operate, their work is considered essential. The director is regularly in contract with the local health department.
- 3) LIFE Student ministries will transition to gatherings in the church instead of virtual gatherings when we reach stage 3, however they will not meet in person before the first of June.
- 4) Groups of under 25 may meet in the building, but consideration will need to be given with regard to time and location keeping the needs of the daycare in mind. Groups should practice social distancing and need to sanitize tables and chairs before and after use. (Please schedule such gatherings through the church office.)
- 5) The Sunday morning nursery care will be available whenever we return for public worship.
- 6) Children's Adventure in Faith (Sunday School) will begin when children are able to return to school.
- 7) Vacation Bible School is canceled for this summer, but may take place during fall break.
- 8) Summer camp has an adjusted schedule (see Pastor Justin for details).
- 9) Committee Meeting will continue to held by Zoom until at least the beginning of June.
- 10) The church office will remain open, with doors locked until we reach stage 4.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. We will get through this together, but it will take patience and perseverance mixed with a good measure of grace.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Brian