



Next Normal Update 5/27/20

The purpose of this message is to provide an update on our decisions regarding plans to resume in-person worship. Earlier this month we announced Phase I of our church reopening that included staff returning to the building May 18, groups of 25 or less, as well as funeral services, being allowed to meet in the church and no in-person worship services through June 14 per the request of our Bishop. Today we announce the decision to continue our current practice for another six week period through July. Our hope is to resume in-person worship at the church in August provided a continued reduction in new virus cases and no retreats in the reopening plans for the state and city.

While recognizing Mayor Hogsett's announcement Wednesday morning that churches could resume services at 50% capacity, the mayor also called for maintaining social distance and people over 65 to stay home. Recognizing that the rate of decrease in new virus cases is slow and that there is so much that goes into our Sunday experience that we could not currently offer such as fellowship time, children's ministry and choirs, not to mention the need to discourage our largest population of membership from attending, we have chosen to continue our current pattern.

We recognize that whenever we return, church will be different from what we last experienced. However, we want to wait until worship can be as uplifting and open as possible.

We believe these steps reflect not only sound judgment exercised in the best interest of our congregation, but also the feelings of the majority of our membership expressed through the recent survey. If you would like to see those results, click [here](#).

In the meantime we are looking at ways we can offer worshipful connection. One of those will take place next Sunday afternoon, June 7, from 2-3:30 with our pastors serving communion in the parking lot. You will be able to drive up to one of several stations and safely receive communion and prayer from a pastor while remaining in your car.

Finally, we want to express our understanding of the practical and emotional challenges so many of you are experiencing. We are ever so eager to return to community life and worship, but want that to happen when we have the highest confidence that no one is endangered. We commend our staff for doing all they can to minister to us through this time.

- If you have emotional support or prayer needs, call 317-643-2293 or submit a prayer request [here](#).
- If you or someone you know needs tangible assistance, please call 317-749-2129 or email the team [here](#).

Thank you for your prayers, participation, and support during this time. None of us thought we would be here, but the season of separation is ending and we envision a day of returning as a church in which we will be better than before. May you have assurance of God's presence and grace in your life and be open to the ways God can use you to give hope to others. We encourage you to share links to our worship services, daily mobile messages, AnchorPoint, and other online events. Instead of being a setback, we believe God is using this time to extend our witness like never before. May God bless you and make of you a blessing.

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