

Greetings Church Family!

Good news!

After meeting with the Elders & Deacons last night it was decided that we will be opening this Sunday!
(Note I will be posting a video announcement about this on the website.)

With that said, there are a couple of guidelines we want you to be aware of:

1. We would encourage those of you who are at greater risk to feel perfectly comfortable staying home. If you would like to listen to the sermon, an audio recording will be available on the website and we can mail you a cd upon request.
2. Regardless of our personal opinions about how our MA state leaders have handled this current crises, the Elders believe that given the current circumstances we should follow the MA state guidelines for reopening. This means:
 - Operate at 40% of our building capacity. Our sanctuary seats 230. So that means we could have up to 92 people in for our Lord's Day Service. We typically run at about 60 people, so we fall comfortably below that guideline.
 - We must wear masks in the building except for children 5 and under and those who have breathing difficulties.
 - We are advised not to have in-building times of fellowship before & after services.
 - We will be sanitizing the church building after each service.
3. Adhering to these guidelines we have decided to hold a Lord's Day Service at 10:30am to run about 1 hour. Pastor Ron was already scheduled to preach this weekend. His text will be Colossians 3:12, and is entitled, "Elect, Holy and Beloved."
4. We would ask that people use only the main sanctuary entrance or the handicap/elevator entrance. And to limit your use of the building mainly to the sanctuary so as to minimize the need to sanitize.
5. At the beginning of the service if you would come in and get to your seat right away so as to minimize standing in large groups together.
6. At the end of the service we will ask you to do your greeting of one another outside in the parking lot while practicing "physical distancing" (I am hoping 'socially' we will be quite close).

Brothers, in any ordinary circumstances we would not submit to such intrusive guidelines coming from the State. However, given the perceived general threat to public health & safety and given our desire to love and protect our neighbor from harm, we believe that we should adhere to these requirements. We will continue to learn more about & pray about what our proper response should be to this current crises. This crises includes public safety, cultural witness, and political freedoms. Let us commit ourselves to prayer, unity in Christ, and charity towards those of differing opinions.

Some Other Scheduling Information:

1. I plan to continue my morning gospel meditations.
2. On Saturdays @2pm I will continue the book study via Zoom Meeting. The recording will be place on my blog page.
3. Starting next Wednesday, (one week from today), we will resume having prayer meeting together in the sanctuary. (Tonight's meeting will be via Zoom)
4. Tuesday Zoom Lunch meetings will continue for now.

Please pray for Bob & I and the deacons whom we are leaning on for additional advice & support, as we make decisions week to week.

In His Service,

Pastor Steve