



JOSHUA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Church Opening

Sabbath, May 2, 2020

Dear Church Family,

You have heard by now that the governor and our conference president have announced that churches could start to reopen as early as this Sabbath. This is true, but it comes with a list of guidelines. Let me outline for you what those are and how we can go forward together.

First, I want to thank all of you for your resilience and trust in God during these trying times. God is good, and I know He will see us through this. Second, thank you for your continued faithfulness. Work at church has been able to continue, and we have been blessed with a new church sign (you will need to drive by and see it.). Finally, thank you for so many of you allowing us to try a different type of service during this time that is impacting people beyond our church, which is allowing us to grow God's Kingdom even during this time of uncertainty.

So, how do we go forward?

During the month of May, we are still not allowed to have Sabbath School programs due to social distancing regulations. Due to this, we are going to continue our unique/hybrid church service from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during the month of May.

It is also recommended that those in the most vulnerable health categories and age (over 65) still not attend in person.

These people are still being encouraged to view services remotely.

Those that would like to attend may sit only in household groups. There must be six feet between household groups. There must also be an empty pew (row) between household groups. They are encouraged to wear masks, use hand sanitizer, and wash hands frequently. No bulletins will be available. No greeting will take place. They will be observers of the family worship service only. Even this can change if someone from our congregation, who has been in the general public, is found to be sick with the virus.

The way forward will be re-evaluated later in the month of May to determine if we can move forward toward our regular worship practices, or if we must maintain what we are doing.

Blessings,

Pastor Dennis Austin