



June 10, 2020

Dear MPC Family and Friends,

Thank you all for your patience, prayers, and words of encouragement as we try to navigate this uncharted path for our congregation. Your Session has been working prayerfully and carefully developing a plan and timeline for in-person gathering. Last Saturday, Session revised and approved an excellent plan from the worship committee for in person worship. This past Monday evening, Session approved a timeline.

Phase One

Phase One of our timeline begins this Sunday, June 14th, with a weekly outdoor, informal fellowship time under the old oak tree beside the church (see below for invitation in this week's *MPC Weekly* for details). All the research says that gathering outside is much safer than inside so we hope you will be able to join us.

Weather permitting, those who feel comfortable gathering and those who feel well are invited to bring a lawn chair, a cold drink, and join us from 9:00am-9:45am. Of course, we will encourage safe distancing even outside. In the event of inclement weather, the gathering is cancelled.

We will dismiss folks at 9:45am sharp so that you all have time to get home to stream the service online, and so that the worship leaders and our MPC Stream Team has time to get themselves organized. We ask for your support by not lingering or wanting to come inside the church proper at that time.

Also, two MPC midweek groups (Monday evening and Wednesday noontime Bible studies) have been approved to meet on campus with certain conditions which include safe distancing, mask wearing at appropriate times, a maximum of 12 participants, and mandatory attendance taking just in case, heaven forbid, contact tracing is needed. Check with group leaders for further details.

Phase Two

The Session has a called meeting for June 21st to review and adjust, if necessary, the weekly outdoor gathering/online worship model and to explore the best time to enact Phase Two of the plan: the start-up of in-person worship in the sanctuary. Whenever that happens, streaming will continue as a vital part of MPC's ongoing outreach commitment so that those who feel more comfortable worshipping online may do so, and so that we don't lose touch with the 300 or so folks who now watch our services from near and far.



As mentioned above, the plan for in-person worship is very good. However, while it is achievable, it is a lot more involved and will require training of elders, deacons, and ushers, some physical adaptations such as a projector and screen for attendance overflow to the fellowship hall, charcoal filters for our air system, etc., and a great deal of commitment and participation from all us. Our Clerk of Session, Wendy Wolverton, or I will update you as soon as we have a date for Phase Two to begin.

We have an amazing congregation and a very faithful and active team of elders who are thoughtfully and prayerfully guiding us right now. None of this is easy, but I feel so incredibly blessed by the love and support that you all have shown to me and to Beth. May God continue to bless you with kindness and patience, good health and good spirits!

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Mark

PS Please share this information with those who may not be on our email list. Thank you!
