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May 4, 2020

Re: Church Reopening

Victory Family,

It has been nearly 2 months since we have had church services in the building at Victory. Kim and I want to thank each one of you for your faithfulness in supporting the online church services and in your financial giving. During these last 7 weeks, we have seen many people join us online as we streamed our services.

I want to thank Kim for bearing with me working from home. For helping me to brainstorm ideas to stay connected with you. We enjoy visiting so many of you at your homes and connecting with you from our “Back Porch” on Fridays.

I want to publicly say thank you to our worship team and our pastoral staff for making sure church continued to flow virtually. We are blessed to have each them at Victory.

This past Friday, Governor Holcomb release his 5-stage Roadmap to Safely Reopen Indiana. Beginning May 8 churches will be allowed to meet with social distancing and proper personal protection equipment in place. We want to ensure we can hold our church gatherings – Safely, with consideration for the well-being of our church family, in a manner honoring God. Paul in Romans 13:7 states, “*Give to everyone what you owe them: ... if respect, then respect, if honor, then honor.*” As a church we need to respect and honor our governing leaders who made these decisions. Whether you agree or disagree with their politics.

With the recommendations of our Indiana Governor, Indiana Assembly of God District and CDC we have decided to re-open our building for church services beginning on Sunday, May 17. We will be doing somethings differently and applying new procedures which will help transition smoothly. We know this is not our norm but we continue to work together as church family.

**What will Victory look like when we reopen?**

- We want to encourage those who are 65 years and older or those who are considered high risk to remain home and watch our live-stream services.
- We are encouraging those attending services to wear masks.
  - o We will have mask and gloves hopefully available for those who wish to use them by May 17.
- Our Greeters and Ushers will hold doors open for you as you enter and exit the building.
- We will have Hand Sanitizing Stations or someone available to offer you hand sanitizer.

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- Bathrooms will be limited to two in the Men's Bathroom and three in the women's bathroom.
  - o Please wait outside of the bathrooms
- We will be social distancing throughout the sanctuary and lobby
- Fellowship Hall, Café and Water fountains will be closed on Sunday mornings until July 5
  - o We will encourage you to bring a bottle water with you
- We will be offering two Sunday Services at 9am and 11am.
- Doors will open at 8:40am & 10:40am.
  - o Those coming for the 2<sup>nd</sup> service must wait outdoors until first service is released
- Since our capacity will be decrease due to social distancing,
  - o we will be encouraging each individual or family to sign up each week on our link on our website which service they will be attending, so we know when our capacity limit has been reach.
  - o Once one of the service capacities has been reached, it will offer the other service availability.
  - o We will only live-stream our second service at 11am.
  - o During our live-stream, we will have one of our pastors available during live-stream to welcome guest and church family who are unable to attend.
  - o They will also be taking prayer requests as well.
- There will be a new seating arrangement to maintain social distancing.
  - o We are encouraging all families living in the same household to sit together.
  - o We are encouraging waves, smiles and elbow bumps to greet one another.
- Church bulletins will be discontinued.
  - o Announcements will be available on website, social media and via emails
  - o There will be no handouts or paper resources available until July 5
    - Brochures, Connection Cards, etc.
- We will resume Work Release Sunday pickup on July 5.
- You will be encouraged to continue to give online or texting your offering.
  - o There will be an Offering Box in the Lobby next to the Welcome Counter for those who want to bring your offerings.
- During Altar time, if you want to kneel and pray you may do so during worship or altar time keeping social distance in mind.
- Our Ushers and Greeters will be sanitizing prior, during and after each service.
- Worship Team Practices will continue to meet on Thursdays and Sundays at 8am.
- Wednesday Night Church will continue to be ONLINE until June 17.
  - o June 17 Wednesday will resume as normal.
- Children Church & Nursery will be cancelled until June 14
  - o It is been recommended for Children Activities to be cancelled for the next few weeks.

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- Children will be encouraged to sit with their families on Sundays.
- Youth Church will resume on Sunday evening on May 17.
  - They will need to maintain their social distancing as well.
- We are cancelling any use of the Fellowship Hall to outside groups until July 5.
- Connection Groups will be allowed to meet at homes or at church maintaining social distancing.
  - Connection Groups meeting at the church must keep the group under 20.
  - Each Facilitator will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing their area.
- Starting in mid-June or July we will be implementing a new Growth Track.
  - This Growth Track will include
    - New Believers (3 week)
    - Next Steps (4 weeks)
    - Ready to Serve
  - The New Believers and Next Steps will run simultaneously during the first service at 9:15am
  - Those involved in the groups will be encourage to attend the 11am Service
- Memorial Day Church Picnic has been cancelled for this year.
- We will release some of these restrictions and increase capacity for each service on July 5 according to Governor Holcomb's recommendations.
- In order for everything to run smoothly, we need all of our church leaders and ministry workers to be faithful in their areas
  - We need more Sound Techs, Camera / Media Crew
    - Those involved in Sound, Camera and Media
    - Please be faithful. You will be asked more of you.
    - To be at practices, and be ready to go on Sundays
    - Please if you are not involved any ministry or if you feel led to transfer ministries, please let us know.
    - We need you.
    - Don't forget we get to serve God.
  - Worship Teams
    - Please be faithful to your practices.
    - Give your best with excellence as you lead our church to the presence of God.

Victory Family we are in a new / REDO Season. Exciting days are ahead. In order to effectively transition smoothly, we need everyone's participation with a spirit of unity.

Sincerely,

*Joel Rivera*

Joel Rivera  
Lead Pastor

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