

Reopening Plans

June 4, 2020

Fellowship Family,

The long-awaited time for our regathering as a church has finally arrived. The governor has granted churches the freedom to reopen in-person services under the guidelines of social distancing. Within these guidelines it is our desire to begin in-person services understanding that with this freedom comes great responsibility. Please know that while we as staff and leadership are *very excited* about seeing you again, we understand that some of you may opt not to return to our in-person gatherings yet. We want you to do what you deem best for your health and safety and that of your family. Know also that we stand with you as your church family to assist in any way we can. In short, we love you and we are here for you!

Our Reopening Plans include an approach that...

- Recognizes our responsibility to reopen in a manner that is orderly and God-honoring (1 Corinthians 14:40-43)
- Is gradual, beginning with very directed guidelines in everything related to being present in our facility and over time relaxing these guidelines as circumstances and the governing authorities direct
- Allows worshipers to be present in our facility with the least amount of exposure to potentially dangerous airborne and surface contaminants as possible
- Includes giving grace to all to protect themselves as they feel they should (facemasks, gloves, etc.)
- Encourages people to refrain from attending our in-person services if they feel sick, are most at-risk (such as the elderly, those with a preexisting health condition, etc.), and those who feel uncomfortable to potentially exposing themselves to the risk of illness.

It is important that everyone manages their expectations since the new reality of our in-person services is that they will not be what we are accustomed to. There will be a sense of awkwardness, of inconvenience, and it will feel impersonal in the way we gather. It is incumbent upon everyone to have patience and exercise grace to each other knowing that over time our current reality will change for the better.

Our first in-person services inside our facility will be on Sunday, June 14th at our usual times of 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. If you receive this before June 7th, we will have one more outdoor/drive-in service on the 7th at 10:30. We will also live-stream this service as well. Please note that beginning on June 14th we will begin live-streaming BOTH our 8:30 and our 10:30 services for your convenience.

Our goal with our services is to create a touchless experience for everyone present, especially for those who desire it. Here are the features that will be included as part of our services:

- Touchless hand sanitizers throughout the building
 - Our Cleaning Crew will be sanitizing our facility throughout the morning
 - Greeters and ushers will be trained in social distancing, wearing masks and holding open the doors when you arrive and when you leave
- Note: Our Operations Coordinator has completed a certification class designed for facility measures and COVID procedures and is training both our ushers and greeters
- We are limiting the number of people in attendance for each of our services but believe that we have plenty of room for everyone who wants to attend
 - The chairs will be set up to facilitate social distancing. In addition to our padded chairs we will have hard-surface chairs set up for those who prefer them.

- The only doors open will be our main doors – the west door will be locked
- There will be no children’s ministry classes. We will provide children’s materials in plastic bags for parents who want them or they can be downloaded personally ahead of time and brought with you for your children
- There will be no coffee/donuts served and the café will be closed
- Everyone will be dismissed by section and encouraged not to congregate in the lobby but to fellowship with others outside according to social distancing guidelines
- You will not receive a worship folder. All announcements are on our website, APP or made during the service
- No offering bags will be passed. Giving will be received using the boxes by the doors or through on-line/APP giving. Please be sure download our APP if you haven’t done so.

We hope and pray the measures we take will give confidence to those who desire to attend as well as encourage you to feel free to invite guests, knowing that these measures are in place. As we prepare for this new normal, we ask that you do not attend our services if you are ill. If you do attend and then become ill, please call one of our pastors so we can both attend to your needs as well as take the appropriate procedures to cleanse our facility. Please do your best to follow the social distancing guidelines (6-foot distancing) while attending a worship service.

If you are someone at-risk such as the elderly, have underlying health conditions, are parents with children, etc., please remember the various opportunities afforded to you to continue to connect with our church family:

- Live-stream services on Sundays
- Growth Groups throughout the week
- First Wednesday of each month “How to Get the Most Out of God’s Word” Zoom Class
- Lunch-time devo on Wednesdays at noon
- Live Prayer Service on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. on Youtube

Our staff is also currently working on plans for our Fun Fest and Anniversary Service Weekend, August 5th – 9th in light of the current COVID restrictions and guidelines. We hope to let you know when these are in place soon.

On behalf of all our staff and elders we want to thank you for your continued involvement and commitment to our Lord Jesus and the Fellowship Family during the last few months. Your heart for the Lord and for others has proven such a blessing to us, and to those around us. We look forward to our renewed fellowship with you soon.

For the Sake of His Name,

Pastor Rob



225 North Avenue, Norwalk IA 50211 | (515) 981-0699 | www.fellowshipnorwalk.org

“Joining God’s mission to disciple all peoples for the sake of His name.”