New Hope Family,

Praise be to God… we can be together once again!

As we begin reopening in-person ministries, our goal is to do so in the most responsible, safety conscious manner we can. This process will evolve over time, and our approach will be updated in light of changing conditions in our state. Over these past three months, we have all developed a great deal of adaptability in dealing with the threat of this virus and the rapid social changes it has caused. This adaptability will serve us well now, as we navigate the process of reopening!

Our current guidelines for worship, office hours, and group meetings are outlined below.

**Worship**

After three weeks of parking lot worship, we will resume our regular summer worship schedule on Sunday, June 21. Here are the details we need to keep in mind:

* The 8:00 am service will take place outside in the memorial garden (weather permitting).
* Please bring your own lawn chair, if you are able (if you can’t bring one, a chair will be provided)
* We will set up in the lawn area around the garden, observing social distancing of 6 feet minimum between family units
* Since research is indicating that wearing face masks is the single most important thing we can do to insure one another’s safety, masks are required for everyone. (if you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you)
* The 9:45 am service will take place in the sanctuary
* Pews will be marked for seating of family units at least 6 feet apart, to insure social distancing
* Face masks are required for everyone
* Handshakes and hugs should be avoided
* There will be no greeters and no printed bulletins
* There will not be a greeting line or coffee hour after service
* Those feeling ill should stay home (the sermon will be recorded and posted online)

**Office Hours**

Limited church office hours will resume on Tuesday, June 16, using these procedures:

* The church office will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday each week, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.
* Social distancing of at least 6 feet must be observed
* Face masks are required for everyone entering the building
* Conversations with Dawn or Pastor Carman should take place from their doorways, rather than in their offices

**Group Meetings**

At this time, groups may meet in the church with these provisions for social distancing and safety:

* Meetings will take place in the fellowship hall to allow for maximum spacing
* Social distancing of at least 6 feet must be observed
* Everyone must wear a face mask while in the building
* No food can be served

I want to thank you all for the many ways you have been supportive of one another throughout these last months when we could not be together in person… and I encourage us all to focus now, not on the limitations we still face, but instead on the joy of being able to gather in person once again!

Please contact me or the church office with any questions you have, and may God grant us peace, hope, and joy.

Blessings,

Pastor Carman