



RE-OPENING PLAN

On Sunday, June 14, 2020, we will begin to **gather again at Gingrichs** Mennonite Church! We are approaching this reopening with great excitement to gather the church back together again. We desire that throughout this process of re-opening to have two questions before all of us:

- *What does LOVE require of us?*
- *How can we exercise empathy and flexibility toward others?*

With your gracious help and cooperation, we will be able to provide the safest environment possible not only for us but for those who are looking for a church family during this time. We have designed a three-phase process that will allow us to be both cautious and intentional, based upon our age demographics with Gingrichs.

Phase One—Outdoor services on the lawn

Phase Two—Inside services with limited building usage

Phase Three—Inside services with unlimited building usage

We are asking the following people to continue listening to our online sermons and refrain from coming to church.

1. Symptomatic people (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches, headache, congested or runny nose, nausea, diarrhea, or loss of smell).
2. People who are asymptomatic but have been exposed to others with COVID-19 and are in the quarantine stage.

Important information for Phase One: Starting Sunday, June 14, 2020, @ 9:00 am

Our outdoor services will begin at a new time (**9:00 am**) to accommodate the heat of the summer. Our services, in the beginning, will look and feel different than the last time we gathered. We will be abstaining from singing as a group since it is one of the fastest ways of spreading the coronavirus within a large group.

For those who would be more comfortable sitting in their cars, a member of our Trustee team will help you park your car so that you can either hear the service from our speakers or your FM-radio dial. Once we re-open we will not be continuing our Sunday Zoom meetings, but we will still be providing a recording of the sermon that will be available later Sunday afternoon.

We will provide some EZ-Up tents for shade and would ask that **each family unit bring** the following with you to the church service.

- ✓ Lawn chairs or blanket to sit on
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Toys/activities for your young children as we will not be having a Nursery or Children's Church initially.

The following are the recommended CDC and Pennsylvania suggested protocols that we will be observing:

- **If possible, check your temperature at home before coming to church.** It is possible to have a fever and not be aware of it. We are in the process of getting fast read thermometers but will likely not have them before June 14th.
- **Practice social distancing.** This can be done from the moment you park your car and choose a spot on the lawn to sit. Our Trustees and Greeters will be there to help you and your family find a spot that is 6 feet apart. *Please be aware of others and their comfort level. Be respectful and refrain from our usual shaking of hands or hugging anyone.*

- **Masks are strongly recommended.** We encourage you to bring your own mask. We will have a limited number available for those who do not have their own.
- **Hand sanitizer will be available from our Greeters when you arrive.** We also ask that you bring your own if you have any.
- **The church doors will remain closed.** We ask you to only enter the church building to use the bathrooms, to check your mailboxes or for other specific purposes.
- **We will observe the following activities without physical contact:**
 - **Bulletins**—will be located on a table for you to pick up.
 - **Offering**—there will be an offering receptacle available for you to give your offering before or after the service.
 - **Communion**—we are beginning to research safe ways to participate in communion together and we will let you know in advance when this will occur.

As we—the church scattered—**come back together** please be in prayer for how we can join together not only in spirit but also in unity. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the Elder Team members or Pastor Amanda.

*Blessings to all,
Gingrichs Elder Team*