



4449 Koepfgen Road | Cass City, MI 48726

Coronavirus (COVID 19) Preparedness Update

5/21/2020

Dear Friends,

We trust that this letter finds you both healthy and trusting Jesus during this unique season of life. At CCMC, we often challenge each other to take steps. In particular toward Loving Jesus, Loving Others, and Proving it. Taking steps is not only important in our walk with Christ but also together as a church.

As our staff and board monitors updates from the CDC and our government bodies, we wanted to let you know of our planned next steps moving forward as both our state and nation begin making preparations to open up business, travel, restaurants, sports, etc.

First, we recognize that God's word calls us to gather together for worship and encouragement.

PSALM 95:1 *COME, LET US SING FOR JOY TO THE LORD; LET US SHOUT ALOUD TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION.*

MATTHEW 18:20 *FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE COME TOGETHER IN MY NAME, THERE AM I WITH THEM.*

HEBREWS 10:25 *LET US NOT GIVE UP MEETING TOGETHER, AS SOME ARE IN THE HABIT OF DOING, BUT LET US ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER — AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING.*

1THESSALONIANS 5:11 *THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP, JUST AS IN FACT YOU ARE DOING.*

While everyone is eager to get back to gathering without restrictions, we will patiently and carefully re-open on-site worship gatherings in phases. Our phases will be informed by the guidelines of the government, the precautions suggested by authorities, the dictates of common sense and the promptings of God's Holy Spirit, NOT in reaction to fear, partisan politics, polarizing cultural messaging or by what other churches have decided to do.

Re-opening in phases is essential to allow CCMC leaders and volunteers time to implement and refine new procedures. Please understand that there is a wide spectrum of issues we must take into consideration, including: group size, cleansing/sanitizing of the facility, seating arrangements for social distancing, usher/greeter responsibilities, restrooms, children's interaction (ministry), offerings, and communion, to name a few. Reopening in phases gives us the time needed to plan, execute, evaluate and adjust procedures as well as the perspective needed to respond to the ever-changing situation in the society.

We recognize that some may see our multi-phased reopening strategy as too slow while others may think it's too fast. In the end, *it is up to the individual to follow their own conscience about when it is right/safe for them to reintegrate back into on-site worship.* We strongly urge those who fall into the "at risk" category to continue to worship remotely for this season. We admonish anyone with symptoms of illness to stay away out of respect and concern for others. Above all, we implore everyone to pray for and strive toward peace and unity, gracefully responding to each other's differing needs and mindsets.

EPHESIANS 4:2 *BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE AND GENTLE; BE PATIENT, BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE.*

ROMANS 12:10 *BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN BROTHERLY LOVE. HONOR ONE ANOTHER ABOVE YOURSELVES.*

We will continue to offer high-quality on-line worship experiences that allow for the maximum amount of interaction and involvement possible with the use of technology to benefit those who are unable or *not yet ready* to join on-site worship.

Description of Phases:

Phase 1 The Sunday morning worship team (tech, musicians and worship leaders) will gather to do live worship for on-line broadcast for the next 2 Sundays (5/24/20 & 5/31/20) with no on-site worship gathering.

Phase 2 Size-controlled worship groups welcomed on-site with at least 2 time-slot offerings while doing our very best to maintain social distancing. Preparations are underway to begin Phase 2 on June 7th. As updates from our local officials and the CDC shift and new information is made known, the date of June 7th may also need to be shifted. Further details for phase 2 will be determined as guidelines become clearer. Children's ministries and on-site Bible Study Fellowship classes most likely will be unavailable during Phase 2. We will also provide information about how, when, and what Phase 3 will look like.

A phrase we've heard over and over throughout this pandemic is: *We're all in this together.* How true! That phrase should describe The Church (universal) and our church (CCMC). As part of the body of Christ: We're all in this together! It has been encouraging to see so many pulling together across our land to care for and support others through the pandemic. Now, as followers of Christ, we need to work even harder to stay together, to remain united and to work for peace.

Ephesians 4:3 *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

1Corinthians 1:10 *I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

Great days are just ahead!

Trusting Jesus with you.

Pastor Phil, Staff, and Board at Cass City Missionary Church