



4449 Koepfgen Road | Cass City, MI 48726

Dear Friends,

Praise the Lord! We are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel from our time of isolation and quarantine! This has been a DIFFICULT time for the whole nation. All of us have been forced to do (and NOT do) things for the good of others that were difficult. As we begin to open back up in society, we are still being asked to continue with many limitations to slow down and prevent the further spread of this terrible disease that has taken the lives of so many and has caused the suffering of millions. We are happy to announce re-opening on-site worship services at Cass City Missionary Church. But like everywhere else, at present we too will have limitations.

As we communicated to you by email, letter and on our website a couple weeks ago, starting this Sunday (June 7) we are implementing Phase 2 of our post-quarantine reopening. Our worship times will be (as before) 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. with *no* Sunday School classes for any age (for the time being) at 9:45a.m. While it is not required, it would be very helpful of you to phone the church (989-872-2729) and tell us which service (8:30 or 10:50) you will attend, and how many are in your group so that we can prepare appropriately for you and your household. This will also allow us to leave space for people seeking Jesus and other guests.

For the time being, we are limiting access in the church building to the traffic areas used to enter/exit the sanctuary and restrooms. The worship space has been set up with distanced seating to accommodate households with varying sized groups. We have included some round tables for those with children or for those who prefer that option.

As you enter the upper foyer, you will be able to pick up handouts (Prayer Sheets and Sermon outlines). We continue to encourage online giving for those who can, but an offering box will be positioned in the entrance area for those wishing to leave offering envelopes or checks. This week is Communion Sunday and factory pre-packaged communion elements will be available to pick up in the foyer as you enter. Individually packaged gluten-free wafers will also be available for those who need that option.

As we had stated previously, during this phase of reopening we will not be offering nursery or children's ministries during worship services or Sunday School for any ages between worship services. Our deep desire is to re-start all those ministries as soon as possible. For now, a children's handout/packet will be available for children upon entering. Miss Shirley will continue to present a Kidz Korner with each service until we can offer on-site Children's Church. Parents, you are responsible to monitor your children and keep them with your family.

-OVER-

Because of cleansing, some areas of the facility will be unavailable. The office hallway, nursery and basement levels will not be accessible. The family bathroom at the north end of the upper foyer and the main bathrooms in the Commons (all handicap accessible) will be available however we recommend limiting to necessity use only. We will not be offering any snacks or beverages, and the drinking fountains will not be available for use. If you anticipate needing a beverage, please bring your own.

We have all had to learn new behaviors designed to slow the spread of the virus by limiting contact with one another. Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 5b says: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: . . . 5b a time to embrace and a time to refrain."* This is the time to REFRAIN from embracing and other forms of physical contact and we must continue to observe social distancing for a little while longer. We certainly all look forward to seeing each other but please acknowledge and encourage others using non-contact methods

We will continue to offer 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. We strongly urge those who fall into the "at risk" category to consider continuing to worship remotely for the time being for your own safety. We admonish anyone with symptoms of illness to stay away out of respect and concern for others.

The health department strongly encourages people to wear a mask when in confined public spaces. We also encourage mask-wearing as you are in contact with others at church but will not require it. Mingling and chatting with friends is also encouraged, BUT for now, we ask that you limit social interaction to outside the building after the service.

All of us hope for the time when we can "get back to normal" but we also realize that it will be a NEW normal. As Christians who love and serve one another, and as we strive to put the needs of others above our own needs or desires, we are better equipped and motivated to adapt to limitations if it is for God's glory and for the good of others. Thank you for your patience and please pray with us that we will be able to quickly ease these restrictions.

I close with Paul's admonition in Philippians 4:4-6 written while in prison and possibly in chains: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God*

We look forward to gathering with you to worship with JOY this coming Sunday.

In Christ's Love,

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