**McIvor Church's Plan for Return to Public Gatherings in Fall 2020**

Hello McIvor Church Community,

During the pandemic and crises of 2020, we have been discerning what it means to be the church, and how to live that out in this season. We want to be faithful to God's call on us as a community, while heeding the requirements of our government health officials. As our leadership has grappled with the many complexities of this season, our conversations have produced the following plan for gatherings in Fall 2020.

Please keep in mind that this is our **current** plan. New realities continue to unfold, and so we will all need to continue to seek God's wisdom, and hold our plans lightly. Even while the ground may feel like sand under our feet, may we never stop trusting in the solid foundation of Jesus' teaching for our lives (Matthew 7:24-27). Let us continue to look to Jesus who sacrificially laid down his own life as a demonstration of God's love (Philippians 2:1-11).

McIvor's Staff and Council are ready to discuss any further questions and comments with you. Within these conversations, we would love to talk with you about how you can serve in our gatherings in the coming season.

Thank you for your patient and prayerful participation in this process.

Format of Services

Starting September 13, we plan to host weekly gatherings that include:

* 1 Sunday morning worship service in the Sanctuary from 10:00 – 11:00AM
  + Physical distancing requirements allow for a maximum of 100 people in this space.
* Kids Church in the Gym from 10:00 – 11:00AM
  + Physical distancing requirements allow for a maximum of 30 people in this space.
* Preschool Church in the Nursery from 10:00 – 11:00AM
  + Physical distancing requirements allow for a maximum of 20 people in this space.
* "Church at home" online services. We will livestream footage of our in-person gatherings, to our McIvor Church YouTube channel. These services will continue to be recorded, and available for access on our YouTube channel after the livestream.

General Health & Etiquette Measures

* All spaces and equipment involved in our gatherings will be sanitized between use.
* Attendees will not need to rsvp in advance. As you enter the inner foyer, an usher will inquire as to the size of your party, and then direct you to your assigned seat. Seats will be clearly marked to maintain social distancing, and avoid confusion.
* Signage will be placed at the church entrance (and on our website) encouraging people to stay home if they have symptoms of sickness.
* We strongly encourage attendees to bring and wear masks within the building. We will also have some disposable masks available at the entrance for those without their own. If you have a condition that makes wearing a mask unsafe, we will also respect this reality.
* Sanitizer will be available at the entrance, and throughout the building. Attendees will be asked to apply sanitizer upon entry to the building.
* All physical interactions between separate households (hand-shaking, hugging, etc.) are discouraged.
* Coat racks will not be available for use. Attendees will need to keep their outside clothing with them.
* People will be instructed and cued to move directly between spaces during transition times. We will not have time and space provided for mingling inside the building. The coffeehouse and library will not be open.

Worship Service Measures

* For the time being, our services will not include congregational singing. We will look to safely position worship leaders on stage to allow them to sing. Congregational participation will still be encouraged through practices like humming during songs, giving voice to responsive readings, assuming different postures, and reflection.
* To prevent spread of contagion, shared print materials including Bibles and Hymn Books have been removed from worship spaces.
* Aside from communion, no shared food or drink will be incorporated into our gatherings.
* When we celebrate communion, attendees will be encouraged to bring their own elements. Some individually-packaged elements will also be available at the worship space upon entry.
* Instead of passing offering bags, we will have an offering box available outside the sanctuary for those who would like to participate in this giving method.

Kids Ministries

The measures listed above will apply in Kids and Preschool Church with the following additions/exceptions:

* All kids will need to be signed in and out by a legal guardian at the sign-in tables.
* All kids programming will be designed to maintain physical distancing.
* An exception will be made in the case of Preschool age kids (0-4), where we will not expect masks to be worn.