

Dear Church Family,

We wanted to take a moment and update you on what our church is thinking and planning through when it comes to re-opening in person services after shut down due to the CoronaVirus. As we have been thinking and praying through what all of this means for our church we want to be sure we are listening to what God is saying to us and take steps to care for all people who enter our building.

We have been listening to what our government officials are saying we can do in the phase re-opening, to what our Free Methodist denomination is saying about all of this, and watching what other churches and leaders are doing and saying as everyone explores what it means for us to come back into society. We have also been talking with and listening to people of our church to hear different thoughts and perspectives of our community. With all of this in mind, our Columbus Free Methodist Church Board has made the decision to hold off on re-starting in person services through the month of May. We will continue to do digital services through Facebook on Sunday mornings during this season.

Our goal in making this decision is to give clarity to those who are a part of our church and to make sure we are protecting all people who will enter our building to the best of our ability. Our church board will re-assess a timeline for re-opening in person services during the week of May 25th. When we do re-open our building for Sunday mornings we will be taking all measures necessary to keep people safe. Some of those measures are:

- Suggesting all people wear masks while in the building, and supplying bandanas to use as masks for those who may not have one.
- Maintaining social distancing recommendations of six feet throughout building, and placing six feet markers throughout the building
- Having people sit only with the people they live with, and having only one pew open for every three rows.
- Not passing an offering or communion plate. We will have safe ways for people to partake in each of these God honoring practices.

These are just a few of the plans we are currently working on to make sure we are keeping people safe when they enter our building.

We are thankful to be able to gather digitally through Facebook each week, and are confident that God is working in the midst of this season. Please continue to be in prayer with us for our church and community.

Blessings,

Luke Maggard (Lead Pastor), Barb Tuttle (Youth/Children Pastor), Sheila Richerson, Jan Holt, John Carpenter, Craig Martins, Iona Sewell, Karen England, Ray King, Eric McDonald, Nancy Verwers