

In-Person Worship – Sunday, June 7th – 10:30AM

The Spring Hills Church Session has approved the resumption of in-person worship services in the sanctuary beginning Sunday, June 7, 2020.

Dear Ones –

As I write this letter, I sense the pressure to immediately have all the answers to your questions and to know what all of our Next Steps should be. However, this is one of those situations where we are “building the airplane as we fly it!” I also want to make it clear that as we resume gathering for worship, there is no pressure for anyone to attend if you feel uncomfortable about gathering with others at this time; we understand and want you to feel and be safe.

Worship will, of course, feel a little different than normal, because we are going to be taking some precautions to protect the health and safety of everyone who attends. At least through July 31st, we will only be using the buildings for Sunday morning worship.

Some Health Considerations

- No one should attend if they have any apprehension or health concerns. Individuals in at-risk health groups are encouraged to continue worshipping with us via the live-stream and not attend in person just yet.
- No one sick or with a sick member of their household should attend; please continue to follow the Jefferson County guidelines.*
- Children of all ages may attend, but parents are encouraged to use their discernment in bringing their children. Knowing this may be a challenge for some, youth and children should stay close to their parents at all times and should avoid physical contact and gathering with their friends.
- **The nursery will remain closed at this time.** The playground will also be closed on Sunday mornings.
- Masks are encouraged, especially if you are going to be singing! If you have one, please bring it and wear it. We will have a limited number of masks available if you don't have one or forget to bring one.
- Personal contact is discouraged; please be sensitive to others' comfort levels.
- Hand sanitizer will be available as you enter and exit the building.
- The water fountains will be shut off; you are welcome to bring your own water bottle.
- Coffee and snacks will not be available.

Let Us Know You're Coming!

In order to assist us in planning, you and your family are encouraged to let us know whether or not you are planning on coming by Friday at Noon. Please fill out the short ReGathering Survey on our website.

Entering and Exiting the Building

- Please arrive earlier than normal to allow the ushers to seat everyone with social distancing; similar to how we are seated at a wedding.
- Please continue to practice social distancing in the parking lot.
- Exterior doors will be opened by gloved and masked greeters.
- Our plan is for you to enter the building through the narthex doors (the sanctuary doors, **NOT** the Great Hall/Education entrance under the portico), unless there is inclement weather.
- Please wait outside until you are invited in by an usher who will seat you. Your “favorite seats” will probably not be available, so we appreciate your understanding, flexibility, and cooperation in following the seating instructions of the ushers.
- In the case of **inclement weather**, we will ask you to enter the building through the entrance to the Great Hall, under the portico and wait in line indoors while you continue to social distance and are escorted into the sanctuary by an usher.
- After the service, you will be dismissed by the ushers by row and ask that you continue social distancing as you exit the building. Please continue to social distance as you exit the building and head to your vehicle.

While in the Sanctuary

- Every other row will be left vacant and we are asking that there be 3 chairs between families or individuals seated in the same row.
- Bulletins will be placed on chairs prior to the service.
- During the passing of the peace, please refrain from greeting with physical contact such as handshakes and hugs. Wave hello and share a verbal greeting!
- We will reevaluate the appropriateness of serving the Lord's Supper in July.

Tithes and Offerings

- Rather than passing offering plates, tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plates located just outside the sanctuary or in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary. We are so thankful for your continued generosity to the ministry of Spring Hills Church!
- You may continue to mail checks to Spring Hills Church, 6247 Upper Byrnes Mill Road, Byrnes Mill, MO, 63051.
- On-line giving is also available at: www.springhillspca.org/give

Restroom Usage

- We are asking that you and your children limit the use of the restrooms to emergency use only.
- Only one person, or parent with a child, will be allowed to use the restroom at a time.
- The restroom doors will be propped open to limit the need to touch the doors.
- The restrooms will be wiped down periodically throughout the morning.

Dear Ones, these are challenging times. During the past few months, all of us have had to learn, relearn, and unlearn different things as a result of the restrictions. This plan will undoubtedly require adjustments. There may be setbacks. Patience, flexibility, and cooperation will be a necessity.

Please be in prayer for your leaders as we plan and learn together. As the summer months move along, we hope to lessen some of the restrictions, but always under the best practices, regulations and guidelines of the CDC, the State of Missouri, the Jefferson County Health Department, the BMPD, and the HRFD.

I know that some of you will think that this plan is too restrictive and that some of you will feel as though we are not being strict enough. We understand that. We will seek to balance our Biblical mandate to gather for worship with submission to our governing authorities and the safety of everyone, as we resume gathering. Please help your pastors, elders, and deacons work this plan with frequent hand cleaning, by following directions for seating, and by practicing social distancing.

The Lord has done and is doing awesome things through His churches! Hearts are being changed, lives are being changed, and communities are being changed – even in the midst of a global pandemic!

Resting in His hands,

Pastor Dave for the Spring Hills Session

***General Guidelines for Jefferson County**

- Citizens who feel sick should stay home
- Continue to practice good hygiene, including:
 - Washing hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces
 - Avoiding touching your face
 - Sneezing or coughing into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow
 - Disinfecting frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible