

May 29, 2020

Dear Church Family,

I have missed seeing you all but trust you are doing well. We have received good feedback from our weekly online services but it's time to begin to look at a safe plan to gather again.

Recently our church staff, Board of Ministry and Deacon Board have met to discuss reopening our church for meetings and worship. Here is a brief summary of our reopening plan:

Our summer Wednesday night dinner and Bible study will resume on Wednesday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Jewel and Ray Lusk and their crew will provide dinner at 6:00 p.m. and Pastor Kurt will provide a Bible study/devotion in the Fellowship Hall at 6:45. The June 3rd menu is Jewel's famous Taco Bar. If you'd like to watch and listen to the Bible study, you can use this Zoom link at 6:45 p.m. to join us: <https://zoom.us/j/8538277974>. We will ask people to space themselves at tables and wear facemasks.

Weekly, in person, worship services will resume on Sunday, June 7, at 9:30 a.m. We will offer only one in person worship service on Sundays over the summer. This service will last around 45 minutes. The weekly 9:30 a.m. service will be on a Zoom video link for anyone who would like to tune in. Here is the Zoom link for the 9:30 a.m. service: <https://zoom.us/j/86867638107>. We are asking everyone to enter the church on Sunday through the Parking Lot double doors. We hope to return to our two Sunday morning services, 8:30 and 10:45, in the Fall.

An open Sunday School class will be offered every Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. Randy Halterman will facilitate. The class will last about 30 minutes. Other Sunday School classes are invited to join this class or they can make their own class plans. The Zoom link for this class is: <https://zoom.us/j/83382135500>.

If you are feeling sick, or just feel unsure about attending church for any reason, **we will continue to livestream our Sunday service on Facebook Live and YouTube at 10:45** as we have been doing.

A cleaning crew, headed up by our Deacons, will completely clean all surfaces in the sanctuary before each weekly service.

If you feel sick, or have a fever, please stay at home. We will be able to take body temperatures quickly at the door if you are unsure of your physical condition.,

We will practice physical distancing (6 feet) while at church. Pews will be marked with a suggested seating pattern but this pattern will be adapted for the seating of couples and families who will sit together. A time of greeting, handshakes and hugs will resume as soon as we feel it is safe for all who attend.

We are asking everyone to wear a facemask while in church. If you do not have a facemask, there will be one available for you to wear and keep. I understand that not everyone feels that facemasks are necessary. Out of respect for others, and as a way to show “love for your neighbor,” please commit to wearing a facemask while in worship. All those who are leading the service from the podium, will wear a facemask when they are not leading the service.

We would like to keep our total attendance below 50%. With every other pew closed and allowing for around 4 people per pew (floor level and balcony), we feel that we can safely welcome 80 people to this in person service. We will have a **video overflow room in our Fellowship Hall** on Sundays for families and others who might like a more open room to view the service on the stage screen.

Please RSVP: If you and your family plan to attend the weekly Wednesday dinner, our Sunday service and/ or the open Sunday School class, **please call Terri in our office at (304)-485-5171 or email your reservations at terri@ebcwv.com.**

Remember: There will be no children’s church, nursery childcare, or Sunday school in our summer services.

We have decided that we will not sing corporately in our June services. Special music will be offered from the podium in every service. This decision, along with the other safety guidelines, will be reevaluated month by month. We are hoping that our choir may be able to gather again in the Fall.

Before you enter the sanctuary, please **place your offering in the offering plate on the stand in the narthex.** Thanks to all those who have been faithfully giving online or mailing their offering.

On communion Sundays, you will receive a **self-contained communion cup and wafer** at the door as you enter.

People will be directed to their seats in the sanctuary as they arrive and then we will dismiss the service by sections. We are asking that you save your longer conversations/updates for when you are outside the church building.

Masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, a voluntary temp check, and a service bulletin will all be available at the door.

On Father’s Day, Sunday June 21 at 6 p.m. we will have a church Courtyard (bring your own lawn chair)/ Drive In Service. Duct tape will be available for all men in attendance.

A summer, Sunday night Small Group will meet at City Park at 7 p.m. Keith and Eileen Mayer will be facilitating this gathering. Stay tuned for topics and meeting dates.

These are stressful times but we know our God is good and He reigns in heaven. As we slowly reopen, it’s important that we show love and respect to one another. I praise God for how you have been looking out for one another and your neighbors during this time. Thank you for your patience as we try to chart a path forward for our church. We are trying to be safe and smart and our leaders feel that we can gather now in a responsible way. Continue to keep our church leaders in your prayers as we evaluate and review our safety guidelines throughout the summer.

Blessed to serve with you,

Pastor Kurt