



Worship

Fellowship

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30 August 2020

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey we sent out earlier this summer. Your answers allowed us to get a pulse on how the congregation is feeling and has informed how we, along with staff, have decided to restart our ministries this year. A number of different factors play into each decision and require us to look at the situation from a few different angles. We have chosen, as a church, to follow the guidelines that the province and local health authority have set before us. The requirements of these guidelines and the desire to do what is in the best interest of the safety of our congregation has implications for each area of ministry. As such, after considering these factors, and taking into consideration the data from our reopening survey, we have decided to take a phased in approach to restarting our ministries. This is in step with wisdom that many other organizations have chosen to implement and allows us to take the necessary time to consider all the details and implement the necessary protocols.

We also realize that a number of people are not yet comfortable returning to larger group gatherings or services. We want to be able to stay connected and minister with people in this category. We will continue live streaming and recording of our services and are exploring expanding this ministry. It is expected that some who may not choose to attend the church building right now may be open to being a part of a small group with their friends and family.

Our Reopen Plan has four phases, as follows:

Phase One: Small Group Ministry – Meeting in small groups has the greatest potential for fellowship and community building with the least amount of restrictions. We are excited to hear about the small groups that have been meeting for years and we are excited about the possibility of new ones starting up soon. This ministry will kick off on Sep 13 (unless groups have already been meeting).





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Phase Two: Mid-week programs (ie. Awana, Youth Bible Study, North of 50, etc.) – As schools reopen and we see larger numbers of children and youth in groups, we will be able to assess how best to restart our segmented ministries. Mid-week programs have the least amount of logistical issues (such as drop-off/pick-up, and appropriately separating children). Taking these into account, our staff team will reassess the situation throughout the Fall. There is no set date for this phase.

Phase Three: In-service children programming (Toddler Room, Kidzone, BLAST) – These programs have many logistical complications given the nature of our services in this season (registration, dismissal, etc.). However, we also realize these are some of the most important programs for families with young children. We assure you that our staff will work hard to offer this as soon as we feel we can do so safely. In the meantime, the staff are providing a space for families that can allow for a bit more flexibility and movement if needed. This Family Room will be in the Red Room and will open this Sunday (Aug 30).

Phase Four: Sunday School – Due to the limitations of our building in conjunction with guidelines set before us, we find that our Sunday School ministry will not be doable in the ways we have been doing it in the past. We will be connecting with SS teachers to suggest alternatives so that the option to continue this, but differently, will be available.

We appreciate your understanding as the staff and board work together to serve our church family well. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask myself, Glenn Lett, Chairman of the Board, Mark Bergen, Senior Pastor or one of the staff members. It is our desire to walk in integrity and represent Christ in all that we do.

Blessings,

Glenn Lett

Mark Bergen

