

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Dear Christ Alone Fellowship,

We hope and pray this update finds you well as we have patiently waited and prayed for direction in this season. We also hope that we can all testify of God's goodness and grace in this challenging season of our lives. Though we have not met together at our location, our desire has always been to be faithful to God's word as we navigate through the challenges due to COVID-19. We have been providing weekly, online facebook live videos in order to continue our time in the gospel of John. But now we, the Transitional Leadership Team, have decided to move forward to gathering together again.

We desire to meet together so that we can stir up one another to love and good works. Encouraging one another, all the more as we see the Day drawing near. We do not see our response to the epidemic as neglect but rather it was a way of being considerate as neighbors to our community and members. We will continue to practice concern and safety moving forward.

Background/Situation

Gov. Tom Wolf said that Lancaster County is among the counties that will move to the yellow phase on June 5. During this time of red status, we have been complying with the state's stay-at-home order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to keep our congregation as safe as possible. We appreciate the positive reports we've received concerning the streaming of our facebook live videos and the prayers for wisdom.

Based on guidance and coordination with other BFC pastors, it is the expectation that anyone who does attend on Sundays will follow the safety precautions outlined below as we try to keep the service as close to 25 people as possible. For that reason, the streaming of the service will continue to be made available for those who do not attend at this time.

Safety Precautions

The health and safety of the members of our congregation are of paramount importance to us. Therefore, here are the precautions we have put in place:

First and foremost, if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 we ask that you stay home.

If you feel vulnerable or have an underlying condition, we would encourage you to stay home and watch online.

If you are sick we ask you to stay home.

We do not intend to exceed 50% of our capacity so as to allow space for people to move freely.

We will have seating arranged to provide appropriate social distancing.

It is not mandatory, but we recommend that you wear a facemask as you enter the building and until you leave the building (Taking into consideration the difficulty of keeping masks on children and those who have trouble breathing).

Masks will be provided at the church on the sanitation table as you enter the church, if needed.

A live stream of the service will continue to be available for those who choose to stay at home.

Children's Sunday School will be postponed for the time being and we will provide sermon sheets for interactive learning.

The toddler area will be moved to the backroom for toddlers.

We ask that parents keep young children close at all times.

Hand sanitizers will be provided throughout the building.

Disinfectant wipes will be supplied on a table in front of the bathrooms for entering and exiting.

Bathrooms will be open. Please wash your hands thoroughly before leaving the restroom. Proper hand hygiene remains the primary means of mitigating the risk of infection.

Adjustments will be made for offering that will consider safety and online giving will of continue.

We ask you to consider safety if shaking hands and giving hugs.

Exterior doors and interior doors will be wedged open to minimize contact points and to provide fresh air in the building.

After the service, the congregants will be asked to consider talking to one another outside of the building. Please make sure to be practicing social distancing inside and outside of the building.

We will partake of communion and consider social distancing when taking the elements. The elements will be near every sitting area and individually packaged. The church will follow the CDC's guidelines concerning the cleaning of the building. Our date to begin to meet again is **June 14.**

This will be the first step taken for the new season of life for our church and Sunday services. These guidelines will change as conditions change as we learn from our successes and mistakes. Please be patient with us and please provide feedback when you see something that you think needs to be changed. In God's grace, we will continue to worship Him.

Next Steps

If you plan on attending service, for members, please inform Pastor Los or Wayne about your intentions. For those who want to attend, please sign up online on our website. We would like to organize proper seating arrangements in order to maintain standards for safety.

Bible studies will continue using Zoom until further notice. Membership meetings and other church functions will be carefully discussed in order for a decision to be made on whether we can meet in person or not.

To Conclude

While our time of worship will not yet be a return to normal, it will be an opportunity for God's people to gather together to worship our Savior and encourage one another. Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God!" We desire greatly to meet again!

Finally, we do respect all decisions each family will make as to whether to worship in person or to continue worshiping at home via the live stream. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us on our website. You can also talk to Pastor Los and Wayne for clarity or more information.

In closing, we look forward to being together again and we trust that the Lord will bless our time together as we worship him as a gathered body. We greatly desire to always obey what God's word commands and teaches. To God be the glory!