

### **Guidelines for Reopening Worship**

We are planning to have our first worship service together on Sunday, May 31 at 9:00 a.m. in the backyard. Here is some information we want to share about that.

**We are working to set up our worship service in accord with the recommendations that the Governor of Texas has shared for worship, and also to be sensitive to the concerns of our members. We realize that some of these recommendations might be controversial for people. Please bear with us as we work this out. This is going to be a process and inevitably one that we will revise as we proceed.**

**Here are the guidelines we are working with:**

- First and foremost is our concern for the health and safety of our members and guests.
- Given the governor's recommendations, we are urging those most at risk, namely those aged 65 and up and those who have pre-existing medical conditions to continue to join us for **online** worship. (We do realize that some people over 65 will want to attend worship and feel comfortable doing so. In fact many of our congregational worship leaders, and our pastor for that matter, are 65 or over. If you are over 65, please make careful and wise decisions. And if you do have pre-existing medical conditions, or if you are exhibiting any symptoms, please do join the online service.)
- We will hold our first worship service in the "back yard" area behind the building. We think that an outdoor service will be safest so we will begin with that.
- If you can, please bring a lawn chair or folding chair. If you can't we will have plenty available.
- We will have a ushers available as you arrive to answer questions and to give directions. The ushers will wear masks and gloves.
- One of the pluses of outdoor worship is that we can easily do social distancing. Families of course are encouraged to sit together, but beyond that please do socially distance.
- There will be no childcare available at this time.
- We will have hand sanitizer readily available
- We are going to ask you to wear a mask. If you can please bring your own. If not we will have masks available.
- Bulletins and communion supplies will be passed out as you enter.
- The rest rooms in the church building will be open.
- We will be serving Communion. We have prepackaged packets with the bread and wine for you to pick up as you enter. We will open them together during the communion service.
- We will have a stationary offering plate for people to give their offering. We will not pass an offering plate during the service.
- We will not be serving any coffee or refreshments at this time.

**One additional thought, working out how we will worship is going to be a process. We will inevitably make changes as we work things out and as the circumstances change. If we are going to err, we hope to err on the side of being overly concerned and safe. Please be patient, and do share your suggestions and ideas! Thank you!**