

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Last week, I shared that our Reopening Task Force and Trustees Committee recommended to reopen our Sanctuary for in person worship. The motion went before the Church Council on Wednesday, October 7 and the motion to start in person worship beginning Sunday, Oct. 25 was approved.

We are excited to gather with you again for worship and look forward to welcoming you back! Our in person service times will remain consistent with what we are currently offering on Facebook. We will also continue to stream our morning services on Facebook & on our website for those who are not ready to worship with us in person just quite yet.

**Beginning Oct. 25, in person worship times, location, & capacity are as follows:**

- The Gathering at 9 am & Traditional at 11 am
- Both services will take place in the Sanctuary with a capacity of 73 for each service
- Worship on the Lawn at 6pm with a capacity of 65 worshippers – weather permitting
- Indoor Sunday School will not take place as of yet

**Your church leadership will use the resource ACHI at [www.achi.net/covid19](http://www.achi.net/covid19) on a week to week basis to determine the number of active Covid cases in our area.**

- ACHI currently provides updates and insights on the crisis. The website provides data in tables and maps to help inform local decision makers, including policymakers, school personnel and parents, about the impact of COVID-19 in their communities.
- The website provides 3 local views – Community, School District, & Zip Code. We will use COMMUNITY (insert Bentonville) as our local view/guide.
- The site provides a trend table with the rates of new known infections for a 14-day period per 10K. We will follow the color scale on the trend table of green (0-9), light green (10-19) and yellow (20-29) as our **GO TO** guide to conduct indoor worship.
- **WE WILL NOT** hold in-person worship if the color scale moves to orange or red. *A hold on in person worship will be communicated to the congregation the Friday before worship.*

**To stay as safe as possible, we will practice the following guidelines:**

- Masks must be worn by all ages 3 & up.
- All are required to register for indoor/outdoor worship. Registration will be available on our website the week prior to service.
- We ask all to maintain 6ft of distance outside your core group.
- We ask all to enter/exit through the Sanctuary doors - the other doors to the building will be closed for entry. *Our ushers/staff will help guide you as you enter/exit the Sanctuary.*
- The bathroom outside of the Sanctuary (in the Narthex) will be available for use. *The bathrooms located throughout the church will be closed.*

We will continue to provide more information as our first in person worship day approaches. Thank you for your continued prayers for our church and staff.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. JJ Whitney