



Hello everyone,

2020 is a year none of us will ever forget. The church board voted back in March to suspend all church meetings because of the COVID-19 virus. At that time I had no idea we would still be facing this pandemic in June. I have been so proud of our ministry leaders who have worked hard to continue to provide worship services, Sabbath Schools and prayer meetings online these past months.

But the good news is that the threat level is going down according to the following website.

<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/>

The church board voted to start having worship service again at our Piedmont Park Church Building starting on June 20.

However COVID-19 is still a threat, so we are planning a slow return to our normal activities.

The church board voted a three step approach to returning:

Step One — 11 am Worship Service only (starting June 20)

Step Two — 11 am Worship Service, and General Adult Sabbath School in sanctuary and General Children's Sabbath School in Fellowship Hall. (At a future date)

Step Three — 11 am Worship Service and return to normal Sabbath School classes

This slow approach to returning will allow us to not overwhelm our smaller number of willing volunteers to put on the worship service in a new format. I wish that everything could just go back to how things were in March, but we are not there yet. Some precautions are still being advised to us by Adventist Risk Management and the city. We will return back to our normal service as soon as it is safe to do so. *No one should feel compelled to return to the church building until you personally feel ready to do so.*

New Worship Service

1. Online Worship Service and Sabbath School will continue for those who are not ready to return to the building.
2. We ask that anyone (pastor, member or ministry leader) who is feeling sick at all please refrain from attending services.
3. We strongly discourage handshakes and hugs. Let's express our love through words and waves or air hugs.
4. We highly recommend everyone please wear a mask. We will have a supply of masks at church for those who do not have one.
5. We will not have live congregational singing at this time to prevent possible spread of the virus.
6. We will practice social distancing. Please use the main entrance on A Street. Ushers will seat everyone upon arrival and will dismiss everyone.
7. No offering plates will be passed. Please give online or turn your tithe envelope in the collection plate in the foyer.
8. We are now B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Bible). No bibles or hymnals will be in the pews.
9. We will clean hard services and door handles and bathrooms after service
10. If someone does test positive for COVID-19, please let the church office know.

We thank you for your understanding and patience at this time. Not everyone will agree with this approach, with God's help we try follow the golden rule and think of one another. Remember, your brothers and sisters may not be where you are in their thoughts about how best to proceed. Let's consider others over ourselves at this time. May God continue to bless our church family and our ministries as we serve Him.

Pastor Michael Halfhill