

May 15, 2020

Dear Westend Family,

We fervently pray that you each of you is safe and well. If you are anxious, we pray for His peace. If you are restless, we pray for His calm. If you are angry, we pray for His wisdom. If you are lonely, we pray for His presence. If you are sad, we pray for His comforting touch upon your shoulder. If you are not quite sure what or where you stand, we pray for His love to surround you, sustain you and to remind you that it is on the solid Rock that you stand.

The last few months, without a doubt, have been challenging, but ever since our Savior last stood on this earth, we have been and will continue to be a forward-looking people. To that end, our staff and Ad Board have begun to look to the future and how our worship and programs will continue, even as things will remain unclear and uncertain. We are confident we will weather this storm so we must begin to plan for the short-term and for the long-term. We have looked into what other churches are doing and what they plan to do. We have researched recommendations and guidelines from medical experts and we've reviewed information and advice from Grand Rapids Classis North.

Below you will find descriptions of a phased re-opening of Westend, subject to, of course, Health Department and State guidelines. Please understand that there are no specific timelines attached to these phases. Our primary concern is the safety and well being of our congregation and the community surrounding us.

- **Phase 1** - Where we are now
 - Individuals & Families worshiping at home
- **Phase 2** - Small groups worshiping in the home
 - Small groups of families and individuals gathering to watch the digital worship service on Sunday mornings
 - Done in the home
 - Social distancing, sanitation, and proper hand hygiene strongly encouraged
 - "Am I expected to worship at someone's house?"
 - No, there is not an expectation that we will all participate in small group gatherings in a home. Some will find this phase refreshing and others will find it uncomfortable. Others will not be able to due to their physical health. It is an option for those who are so inclined.
- **Phase 3** - Groups worshiping in the church
 - Medium sized groups of families and individuals coming together within the walls of the church for a live worship service
 - The remainder of the congregation will have the opportunity to live-stream the service
 - Requires a rotation of groups from Sunday to Sunday
 - Requires a comprehensive plan for pre- and post-sanitation of the church facilities
 - Requires attendees to follow comprehensive hand hygiene and some level of social distancing
- **Phase 4** - Resumption of worship as a full congregation
 - All families invited for Sunday worship!
 - Still requires a comprehensive plan for pre- and post-sanitation of the church facilities
 - The potential for other changes to what we would consider "normal"

The different phases and descriptions probably raise some questions in your mind. When will this happen? How do these groups get set up? When we do open? What about nursery? What about children's worship? What about Sunday School? How will we do offering? What about Westend Wednesdays? Will there be Coffee Time?

All of these and many more questions are still being considered. As of this moment, we have many more questions than we have answers. Rest assured, the staff and Ad Board continue to seek answers and make tentative plans on your behalf. We have all seen the current situation change from day to day, even hour to hour. The policies and strategies we implement will depend on many factors outside of our direct control. In this, we ask for your patience and we ask for your prayers. Please pray that we will be given a healthy dose of His wisdom. If you have any questions, please get a hold of Mike Terrell (moderator).

In His name,
Ad Board