

Grace Reformed Church Newsletter

June 8, 2020

A couple of weeks ago, your Consistory held a Special Meeting to evaluate our first “Drive-In” Worship Service and discuss plans for the remainder of the summer. We all felt that things went really well for the worship service with several volunteers assisting, a great sound system, and a good turn-out. We even had neighbors listening in from their backyard decks.

So where do we go from here? After several minutes of discussion, we agreed to have one more **“Drive-In” worship service on June 14 including another first for Grace Reformed Church – a “Drive-Through Communion” opportunity following the worship service.** For Sunday, June 14, however, we will invite all worshippers to bring lawn chairs to the handicap parking area on the north side of the church with the option of remaining in your cars if that makes you feel safer. If you do not have lawn chairs, we can bring out some chairs from the Fellowship Hall. Following the worship service which will conclude with words from the Communion Liturgy, everyone will be asked to drive their cars around the back of the church facility to the carport where Elders will distribute elements of the Lord’s Supper (a wafer and juice in a small container for each person desiring to partake in this Sacrament) to each vehicle. You can then take the elements back to your home and enjoy the sacred moment of Communion.

For those unable to attend this “Drive-In” Worship Service followed by a “Drive-Through” Communion on June 14, we encourage you to watch the worship service on the Grace Reformed Facebook Livestream page or Youtube after which I will guide you through the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. In preparation, please secure your own bread and juice.

The following Sunday, June 21, the Consistory has unanimously agreed to open up Grace Reformed Church for in-person worship services inside our sanctuary at the usual time of 10:00 AM. We again had several minutes of discussion as to how to enable everyone who chooses to join us for worship on this Sunday to feel safe with respect to the Covid-19 virus. We compiled the following list of protocols which we respectfully ask and trust one and all to follow:

1. We will only have seating open for every other row.
2. The Chapel will be available for seating as well to assist in social distancing.
3. Hand Sanitizer will be available at each entrance.
4. We ask that following the service you exit the building as dismissed by Deacons and not gather in the lobby area.
5. No offering plate will be passed. Offering plates will either be on the soundboard or on the table in the gathering area. Electronic giving is also encouraged or by sending your offering to the church.
6. There will be no shaking hands, just waving hello.
7. There will be no Bulletins given out. We will utilize our screen for announcements. In addition, any important announcements will also be included in the weekly newsletter.
8. There will be no Discovery Kidz or Nursery Services available at this time.
9. Please bring your own Bibles as all Bibles have been removed from the sanctuary at this time.

10. There will be no coffee or refreshments served. However, you are welcome and encouraged to bring your own beverage.
11. Masks will not be required but strongly encouraged. If you need masks we will have them available for you at each entrance to the church facility.
12. There will no friendship registry signing.
13. Plans are in place to update our Filter systems (pending shipping arrival and installation). In addition, all high touch areas (elevator, door hardware, water fountains, bathroom fixtures, etc.) will be thoroughly sanitized prior to each worship service.
14. Since there is ongoing debate regarding the possibility of the Covid-19 Virus potentially being spread unknowingly to other worshippers through singing, for the month of June we will find other ways to integrate the value of music into our worship experiences.

It is the intent of your Consistory to continue inside worship experiences throughout the foreseeable future. However, an increase in Covid-19 cases or another Executive Order from our State Governor may require us to once again adapt and adjust our worship plans accordingly.

Speaking, I believe, for all members of your Staff and Consistory, we so very much appreciate your prayers, support, encouragement, and understanding as we navigate our way through these ever-changing and challenging times. We will do our best to keep the communication lines open but if ever you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of us. Blessings on all your summer plans and activities. Be Safe! Be Smart!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jack

PRAYERS & PRAISE

Dick Postema returned to the hospital (Spectrum Downtown) on Monday (6/8) with additional heart issues. Please keep Dick and his family in your prayers.

Alberta Weeber was hospitalized Thursday – Sunday last week with stomach pain. She is home, very weak but feeling better. Please keep her in your prayers.

Deb Kleymeer will have cataract surgery on June 16 and then again July 1. Please keep her in your prayers as she prepares.

We continue to keep those who have been hospitalized recently or have been ill in our prayers.

We pray for this church as we begin resuming worship services on site. We pray for all those who are working to accomplish this goal. We pray for protection and safety. We give thanks for the many who have volunteered their time to make this possible.

Please contact us if you have any prayer requests or if we can help you in any way!

We pray for Pastor Heather and Jayme Dood and family as they take a vacation June 14 – 20. We pray for a good time of rest and rejuvenation as they are away.