

Grace Reformed Church Newsletter

June 15, 2020

We have had 3 consecutive Sundays of sunshine for our outdoor drive-in worship services. All 3 of our worship experiences have been received with positive appreciation from those who have attended. In fact, some of even suggested to Consistory members that we do this more frequently during the summer months. We will need as leaders to keep this in mind. We have also received several positive comments about livestreaming our worship services on Facebook and YouTube so we will continue to do this as well.

This coming Sunday, June 21, 2020, marks another transition for us as we plan to reopen the worship space for in-person worship. Some have already commented that out of concern for their health and well-being they will not be planning on attending. I want you to know that we respect your decision and for that reason will continue to livestream our worship services for you. At the present time, this involves either Pastor Heather or myself setting up a time during the week to video-record our messages and for Sarah to do the same from her home. We are looking into the purchase of a professional camera which would then allow for actual video of our worship services as they are taking place at 10:00 AM on Sundays.

As we prepare for our first Sunday back in our worship space, please remember that for the time being our worship experiences will be quite different from before the COVID-19 Virus Outbreak. In case you have not received the following protocols agreed upon by your Consistory after several minutes of discussion, I am repeating them for you here. I will also have them posted on our Facebook page for anyone who does not receive our weekly church newsletter. Please do your very best to respect each and every one of them. Thanks.

1. We will have seating open for every other row.
2. Chapel and Balcony 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 table in the gathering area. You can give your offering through online giving.
6. No shaking hands, just waving hello
7. No Bulletins given out- we will utilize our screen for announcements.
8. No Discovery Kidz or Nursery at this time.
9. Please bring your own Bibles.
10. No Coffee served- Bringing your own beverage is highly encouraged!!
11. Masks not required but encouraged. If you need masks we will have them available.
12. No friendship registry signing
13. Filter systems updated (Still pending date arrival) and all high touch areas (elevator, door hardware, water fountains, bathroom fixtures, etc.) will be thoroughly sanitized prior to our worship service.
14. In view of the ongoing dialogue about the potential of congregational singing being an opportunity for some asymptomatic worshipper spreading the Covid-19 virus, we will need to find other ways for music and song to be part of our worship experience until the end of June, 2020.

Please join me in prayer asking God to bless our efforts to once again have the experience of in-person worship for our community and our members. Also, join me in asking God to protect us from this nasty virus as we gather together inside for upcoming Sundays. Thanks for the privilege of leading this church during this time of transition and, from time to time, preaching the Word of God as well. Enjoy the week as you look for and find ways to love God and love your neighbors.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jack Doorlag

PRAYERS & PRAISE

Dick Postema is now back at his home after being hospitalized with continued heart issues. Please keep him in your prayers

We pray for Deb Kleymeer who had cataract surgery on June 16 and will again July 1.

Please keep Pastor Rick Oppenhuizen's mom, Rita Oppenhuizen, in your prayers. She has Covid 19 and is very ill. Remember Pastor Rick & Donna, Ray & Robin Zondervan, and the rest of the family in your prayers as they go through this very difficult time.

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 Sunday. We pray for protection and safety.

We pray for Pastor Heather and Jayme Dood and family as they are on vacation this week. We pray for a good time of rest and rejuvenation as they are away.

SEARCH TEAM UPDATE: Search committee has been hard at work these past few weeks and we have conducted two interviews and are in the process of reference checks please continue to pray for this team and for God's direction.

Thank you all for giving your tithes and offerings so generously through this Stay at Home time. You can continue to give securely through our web site (www.gracewyoming.org) or mail your contributions to church (3330 Burlingame Ave. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509). Offerings can be dropped in a basket here at church Sunday as well. We thank you all for your faithfulness.

This upcoming Sunday, June 21, Pastor Jack will share the message "Justice for ALL" (Psalm 82:2-4, and Romans 12:21). Be sure to join us here in the sanctuary if you are comfortable, or Facebook live at 10:00 am!

And finally, we want to give thanks to all the fathers, grandfathers, sons, brothers, and the men in our lives who mean so much to us, as we anticipate Father's Day. We thank and praise our Heavenly Father for these gifts.