



Dear Five Stones Family,

I can't express how excited I am to see many of you and gather for worship in a room together this weekend!

In this season where so many things have been up in the air, we realize that there will be differing opinions and perspectives about the pandemic and its effects on our behavior as a congregation. In light of those differences, and Five Stones' commitment to making a way for our whole family to continue to engage in our life together, we are grateful to offer you some options for our weekly service this weekend.

Online Option

We will continue to provide an online gathering on Sunday morning at 10:30. This will follow the same format that we have been experiencing for the last several weeks... including the "after party" where we have been able to enjoy hearing from and praying for each other.

This is a great option for any folks who aren't feeling well or who are uncomfortable for any reason about joining together in-person.

In-Person Option

We will meet this Saturday, June 6th, at 5pm at Garber Brethren Church, 163 Sherman Avenue.

Please try to arrive by 4:45 PM so that we can maintain distancing and avoid crowds gathering at the door.

We will only be gathering in the sanctuary for this event. We aren't yet ready to resume nursery, preschool and Children's Ministry activities.

While restrooms are available, we ask that you use them sparingly and wash your hands well afterwards. Disinfectant wipes will be provided to wipe down any fixtures or handles after your use.

Important Reminders:

If you are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms, please do not attend our in-person gathering.

If you experience any of the conditions that put you at elevated risk for the most severe symptoms and complications of COVID-19, we strongly encourage you to continue participating in our online gatherings for the time being.

Regathering Protocols:

1. **We will not be checking temperatures when you arrive, but please do so on your own before coming.** According to the CDC, temperatures of 100.4 degrees or more can be indications of this infection. If anyone in your family is experiencing such an elevated temperature, please remain at home and consider contacting your family physician immediately.
2. **Please be sure to wash your hands thoroughly** (for at least 30 seconds) before leaving home and avoid touching your face afterward.
3. If a line forms to enter the building, please remain 6 or more feet apart from any non-family member.
4. **Masks will be required the entire time we are together.** We encourage you to bring your own mask but, if you forget, masks will be available at the door.
5. **We will be gathering in the sanctuary and ask that you avoid gathering in the hallways.** Greeters will be in place to help you find an appropriate seating arrangement. Family members may sit together but should remain 6 feet apart from non-family members.
6. I know it's hard when reuniting with people we love and haven't seen in a while, but **please avoid physical contact such as hugs, handshakes, fist bumps, etc.**
7. **No offering plate will be passed.** Offering will continue to be either online or by mailed check.
8. **No food or drink will be served or permitted** at the facility during this time...even items brought from home.
9. After the service, please maintain social distancing when exiting and do not congregate in the building afterward.

While we will be disinfecting all high touch surfaces before and after our gatherings (door and bathroom fixtures, etc), we will be holding doors open to help you avoid contact with those door handles. We will also provide hand sanitizer at the door.

These protocols are in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. That being said, it is all of our responsibility to weigh the risks involved in gathering for ourselves and our families. Even if your convictions are contrary to some of these measures, we ask that you observe them for the sake of your brothers and sisters and their convictions. It is not in times of peace and prosperity that our unity is tested, but in times of peril and struggle. May we "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bonds of peace." Ephesians 4:3

I look forward to seeing you Saturday!

Pastor Bill