



Maple United Methodist Church

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Dear friends—

After much prayer, research, and discussion, the Leadership Team has decided to resume church services beginning on **June 7th**. In coming to this decision, we had to consider several things.

First, we had to consider our call, in Scripture, to obey the governing authorities. [Please note: as we resume services we are not disobeying our governing authorities. Churches have the stated right to gather under Michigan law, and our Governor's orders concerning the Covid-19 virus do not apply to churches gathering for worship.]

Second, we had to consider whether or not this is a loving and safe action for the congregation. We believe that **if** the guidelines which are included in this document are carefully followed, that we CAN gather with a reasonable amount of safety.

Third, because we believe that the gathering of the church is important for the spiritual health of believers, we think that it is time to gather again.

With this being said, our worship services will look somewhat different from what we would consider normal at least for the time being. The changes being implemented are listed on page 2.

Not everyone will agree with these changes or the timing of our action, but we humbly ask for your grace and understanding.

We also want you to know that although we will be having church services, you are not obliged to attend if you don't feel comfortable doing so. If you cannot be here in person, you will still be able to access our church service on YouTube. The service video will continue to be a mini-version and will not contain "live" portions.

Your Leadership Team

We are very excited about gathering again! What a great day that will be!

We will see you **June 7th – our new EASTER.**

JUNE Guidelines for Attendance at Maple UMC Worship Services:

- 1) **DO NOT ATTEND** if you are running a fever, have an abnormal cough, have tested positive for covid-19, or if you should be in self-quarantine due to COVID exposure. In this situation, your non-attendance is an act of love for your fellow believers.
- 2) Please wash your hands and use hand sanitizer. Sanitizer will be available in the foyer and sanctuary.
- 3) Face masks are recommended and encouraged from the time you enter the building until you leave. If you do not have a mask, we will have a limited number of masks available. Even if you are not concerned about wearing a mask for yourself, we please consider putting others above yourself and wear one. We understand that not everyone can use a mask due to certain physical limitations.
- 4) There will be two entry points to the building, one will be the main office entrance upstairs and the Fellowship Hall until 11:15 a.m.
- 5) Please practice social distancing of around 6 feet. Please do not shake hands or give hugs for the time being. Use “Namaste” (the Indian greeting) or “Peace”.
- 6) Please do not gather in groups inside the building or in the parking lot. You may talk together, but please maintain appropriate distancing and do not block the aisles or foyer.
- 7) Inside the sanctuary, please spread out to maintain social distancing. Please keep 6 feet between family units while sitting in the sanctuary.
- 8) We will NOT be passing the peace or joining hands for “Bind Us Together”—at least not right now.
- 9) Offering baskets will be available at the back of the sanctuary. They will not be passed.
- 10) Communion and coffee fellowship will be postponed until we are able to offer it in the safest way for everyone.