



KERNERSVILLE MORAVIAN CHURCH

June 12, 2020

I promised, on behalf of the Joint Board, to share more this week about our major goal of offering a variety of different ways to engage in our faith community as we move forward. We know that many in our congregation have very different comfort levels and concerns about being in high-risk groups, while others feel ready to be more actively out and about during this time.

To meet our varied needs, we are seeking a multi-faceted approach as we prepare for ways to gather in-person again. There are a few assumptions that we are working with as we have been in discussions and planning.

- Proximity to each other X Length of time = Increased possibility of exposure
- Outdoors vs. Indoors is always less risky, small gatherings vs. large gatherings are less risky
- Airborne transmission (breathing, speaking, singing) is the most likely route for the spread of infection
- Gathering at church is much more interactive than a trip to the grocery store or other errands

This means we recognize that outdoor gatherings are always going to be a better choice for now, that masks being worn indoors or any time we are in close proximity to each other are the best means we have to limit our exposure, that many of the rooms in our church have a very limited safe capacity, and that once we have used an indoor space we will need to allow time for the aerosols from our breathing to dissipate before safely using that space again.

Since many of you have keys, we ask that only volunteers who are conducting specific tasks with permission or upon request of the Elders, Trustees, or Pastor Christy should come outside of our open office hours (8 am - 12 noon for now). Whenever anyone comes into the building, please sign in by the church office, follow our request that masks be used, and social distance be maintained.

Many of you have asked, "What are some of the local churches who have opened doing?" They are checking temperatures at their doorways, they are wiping down all high touch surfaces, they are restricting entry to only one entryway, they are closing their restrooms or only have one set of restrooms available, they are only having a worship service with no additional Sunday morning programming.

So, what about us? Here are the key ways we are hoping to help you connect with your faith community in meaningful ways as we move into July and August:

1 - **VBS:** We have been intentionally planning this as a way for anyone to connect via Zoom (by your home phone or through a computer) for a Wednesday morning time of music, Bible study and discussion, along with a packet that connects to our time together filled with weekly service projects, ways to get active, share in some Bible games, and do some crafts and journaling.
Register to take part on June 24, July 1, July 8 and July 15.

2 - **Small Groups:** As a larger community, together we have lots of outdoor spaces that could allow us to have many small groups meet at a variety of times. Moravians met in house churches for a hundred years during our hidden seed period between the 1620s and the 1720s. We continued to gather in small house gatherings that we called choirs as the Moravian Church entered its renewal period in the 1720s. Those choir groupings based on age, life status, and gender were significant to our faith communities well into the 1800s. This seems a perfect time to think about re-creating this significant small group gathering practice.

We are looking for hosts who have a yard, patio, deck or open porch who might be willing to invite 6-7 additional folks to join them in a group in an outdoor space at your home.

We are also looking for those who might feel comfortable being invited to participate in a small group on a weekly or every other week basis that would typically take place in an open, outdoor setting.

These gatherings could be a space to share in our online worship offering, to share in a Bible, sermon, or book study together, or to create a supportive community for those who opt in. You can call the office to let us know of your interest or fill out the form found here: <https://forms.gle/U1jpmS9ZniJDPQGF7>.

While we look for ways that allow Sunday School Classes, Women's Fellowship Circles, or other Bible Study groups to move into larger spaces and vary their meeting times to spread out our use of indoor spaces, we need ways for small groups to be a community of support for all who would like to take part.

3 - **Outdoor Worship:** Since a tradition has been to hold an outdoor worship service in mid-Summer, we are looking to offer an outdoor worship service starting at some point in July. This service would likely begin at 9am, be more informal in nature, and invite everyone to bring blankets or lawn chairs to spread out in the open grassy area beyond the Pavillion. We are working out the final plans to make this a reality and will share these details soon. The Pavillion had its Spring Cleaning this week and we are working on some additional steps to be ready to undertake this next step. We are also continuing to monitor the continuing increase in Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations here in Forsyth County. Just as we are asking that folks sign in as they come and go around our building, we will ask you to sign in if you attend an in-person service.

4 - **Online Worship:** Our more traditional worship expression will continue to be offered each week online, available at 8:30 each Sunday morning, as we continue to develop and prepare to install more permanent video solutions for recording and eventually offering a livestream worship option. We are also looking for ways to have audio and video means to share sung or instrumental music once we feel ready to offer an in-person worship gathering in our Sanctuary - something that we would not be able to do at present.

We are in conversations about how this current situation completely reshapes many aspects of pastoral care, children's and youth ministry, and the work of a transitional ministry period. We are seeking ways to support these needs creatively and intentionally. We are in the process of receiving and installing equipment and supplies to help us create a safe environment for gathering again. We are also considering which rooms can be used and their safe capacity alongside of how often they can be cleaned and sanitized for safe use.

These are a shortened form of the guidelines we ask you to follow:

- Office hours are 8:00 am to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday.
- Enter the building through the parking lot entrance **from Cherry Street only**
- Social visits are still discouraged during this time

BUSINESS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Visitors should be masked. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided to you.
- You will be asked to sign in during your visit to the building, note rooms you will be in.
- If someone is already there, you may be asked to wait outside.
- Touchless Hand Sanitizer stations will be installed soon, please make sure to use them and remember to wash your hands with soap and water frequently.
- We ask that social distancing of at least 6ft. be maintained.

On behalf of your Joint Board,
Pastor Christy