



October 1, 2020

Dear Church Family,

We are writing to share an update on our in-person meeting plans now that the cold-weather season is upon us. Our Jackson Rd. property served us well throughout the summer months for Care Group gatherings, Sunday school, and, most recently, Sunday morning worship. For this, we remain grateful.

Governor Whitmer's most recent Executive Order eases indoor gathering restrictions and provides us a window to re-open our Activity Center. Beginning October 1, Chelsea School District has agreed to allow us back into our rented space in the 400 Building subject to safety protocols, adherence to the Governor's orders, and health officials' guidance. For this, we are grateful.

The Chelsea School District's facility use remains suspended at this time and will continue to be inactive while the State is in Phase 4 of the Governor's plan. The District will re-evaluate their facility use practice after the State moves into Phase 5. What this means to us is the 100 building remains unavailable to us for Sunday morning gathering. Your Chelsea FMC leaders continue to re-evaluate our meeting plans as conditions change in our region and update them accordingly. With that in mind, our October schedule for gatherings is as follows:

Sunday school

On Sunday mornings from 8:30 – 9:30 AM, we will gather at the Activity Center for Sunday school. Doug Schoenberg is leading us through a study from the Gospel of John. Seating is limited to 25 people. Once we hit capacity, we will need to close the class.

Sunday morning worship

During October, we are excited to offer a *Drive-in Church* experience at the Jackson Rd. Property. Plan to worship with us each Sunday in October at 10:00 AM from the comfort of your car. When you enter the parking lot, someone will provide instruction to tune into a radio station to hear Pastor Mark share a live message and pray over us.

We understand that meeting in-person may still be somewhat outside the comfort level of some within our congregation. That's okay. Please do not feel pressured to attend any in-person gathering. Each week our service continues to be livestreamed on Facebook, or you can view it on our website or directly on Vimeo.

Discipleship Focus

HOUSE Group facilitators are set to engage us in a timely topic that affects us all. Using a four-part series, found in our Right Now Media streaming Bible study library, we'll receive words of comfort and wisdom to help us navigate the areas of life COVID-19 is affecting. During this series, we'll be encouraged to overcome anxiety in these troubling days and explore ways we can remain faithful to God and others. Watch for registration information in a separate email. Groups begin **next week** and are limited to 12 people each session. Please register for a group. Discipleship groups will replace Care Teams implemented in the spring.

Safety protocol

In-person groups meeting at the Activity Center, and outdoor, in-person gatherings will observe safe-gathering protocol to protect self and love others. Our practices include:

- Limiting attendance at indoor gatherings;
- “Social-distancing” maintaining 6’ (or two arms’ length) between yourself and other people outside of your home;
- Using hand-sanitizer for hand hygiene;
- Using cloth masks to reduce the potential transmission of the virus to others. Disposable masks will be made available for those that do not have their own to use;
- Encouraging individuals experiencing any combination of the primary symptoms (Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, the recent loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, or vomiting) to refrain from attending until cleared by a medical professional.

Let us continue to pray for, uplift, and encourage one another. We serve a mighty God, and He is with us.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark & the CFMC Leadership Team