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June 14, 2020

Dear ECC family and friends,

The Elder team has been spending the last several weeks prayerfully considering when and how we should resume ECC's in-person ministry activities. Many of you also shared your feedback by participating in our congregational survey, which helped us better understand where each of you are at personally to help inform our decision. Given the unique circumstance in which we find ourselves, it is important for us to communicate our priorities as leaders of the church:

Priorities:

- Safety of all members, friends and visitors of ECC
- To offer an opportunity for those who are comfortable resuming gathering in-person to worship and celebrate as Christ's body
- To continue to offer online services for those who are high-risk or not comfortable returning for in-person worship gathering, as they are still part of the body's corporate worship and celebration
- To seize the opportunity to witness to the community our faith in Christ and lead in a way that is both humble yet confident in His provision and protection

Guided by these priorities, we will look to resume in-person Sunday gatherings on June 21, 2020. Our Sunday gatherings will have some similarities and some differences from what we are normally accustomed to on Sunday mornings. Below is a summary of what Sunday mornings will look like for the near future:

1. **What time will Sunday service start?** Our Sunday in-person gatherings will begin at 9:30 am
2. **How long will the Sunday service last?** Our Sunday in-person gatherings will last approximately 30 minutes and be concluding at around 10:00 am
3. **At which ECC facility will the Sunday service be held?** Our Sunday in-person gatherings will be held at the FCC, where proper social distancing practices can be best followed to ensure our safety priority can be achieved. Please plan to park in the south parking lot and enter/exit from the south doors.
4. **Will JC Worship or a children's nursery be available on Sunday mornings?** No, not at this time. At this time all children attending our Sunday in-person gatherings will need to be seated with a parent/guardian, as we will be worshipping together in the FCC auditorium.
5. **How will seating in the FCC auditorium be configured?** Ample seating will be arranged to allow family households to sit together, socially distanced from other family households. Tables with seating will be set-up specifically for families with children. We desire to be together, but in a safe manner.
6. **What will the in-person Sunday gathering look like?** We desire to participate in the same practices we see modeled by the early church during our gathering time. This will consist of a time of prayer, reading from the Scriptures and participating in the Lord's Supper. We will also include an abbreviated song service and teaching time geared specifically for the children. Please note, the Sunday

sermon and additional JC Worship content will continue to be made available online and not conducted live during the in-person Sunday gathering.

7. **Will services be available for those wishing to attend online?** Yes! We will continue to share the Sunday sermon, JC worship content and much of the same content shared at the in-person Sunday gatherings for you to view online. These will be accessible at elkhartcc.org on Sunday morning.
8. **I really want to return to the Sunday gathering, but am considered in the “high-risk” category and am tentative about attending a church gathering at this time. What should I do?** Please stay home and worship with us online! Do not feel guilty or pressured to attend the Sunday gatherings at this time. We want you to be able to worship free from the concerns of this pandemic.
9. **What precautions are being taken to ensure the in-person Sunday gatherings are truly safe?**
We are asking all those attending to please do the following to help us ensure our priority of safety can be met:
 - We ask you to self-monitor your health. If you are not feeling well, please stay home and worship with us online.
 - Please avoid shaking of hands or physical contact with others not in your household.
 - We ask that you always respect a social distance of at least 6 feet from others who are not in your household.
 - We ask you and your household who will be attending to wear a face mask for these initial weeks. If you do not have a mask, we will have masks available for you to use.
 - For those wishing to spend time in fellowship with others following the service we request that be done outdoors (weather permitting) following responsible social distancing guidelines.We are doing the following to set-up a safe gathering environment:
 - Properly cleaning and sterilization will be performed prior to each Sunday morning.
 - Not preparing or offering food, snacks, coffee.
 - All interior doors for passage into the FCC auditorium will be remain propped open.
 - The classrooms (red room, blue room, green room and nursery) will be locked as they will not be in use.
 - Offering plates will be placed in a location for individuals to place their tithes/offerings upon entering or exiting the FCC auditorium (if not currently using the online giving option).
 - Communion will be prepared using sterile practices with two cups vertically stacked (bread on bottom/juice on top).
 - Communion trays will no longer be passed by person to person, but rather placed in a location and be taken at the conclusion of the gathering as people are exiting the FCC auditorium.
10. **How long will our Sunday morning gatherings look like this?** We are honestly taking this one week at a time and will continue to reassess our local situation and adjust as we believe is responsible and wise.

We are excited to be able to transition back into gathering every Sunday to worship together! Please help us do it in a way that we can keep each other safe and enjoy the benefits of being together. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us.

Serving Him with you,

Kris, Korey and Stacy