

## Whitestone Reopening Plan: May 13, 2020

Dear Whitestone Community,

The Elders met on May 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the process for restarting activities at the church. First of all, we will adhere to the guidelines put forth by the Harvey County Health Department, which closely follow the state reopening plans (can be found [here](#)). While we are excited to begin meeting in person again, we also want to protect those who are most vulnerable. In saying that, here are a few updates to our plans:

Beginning on **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**, the office will reopen to the public. This means that the front office doors will be unlocked during normal business hours. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing when in the church. You can expect to find a table in the doorway to the office, please use this as a place to drop off items. During this time, Pastor Steve will continue to work from home, so please call the office to make an appointment, or contact him directly. Pastors Ron and Isaac will be working both from home and in the office.

Beginning **Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**, church related committees and ministry teams can begin meeting at the church. We encourage these groups to meet in larger spaces and practice social distancing. Please contact the church office to reserve your location and time.

Beginning on **Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**, adult Sunday School classes and small groups can consider meeting together. We recommend adhering to six foot social distancing, wearing masks, and keeping group sizes to under 30. If your group would like to meet at the church, please contact the church office to reserve a room. Another idea during this phase is for small groups of individuals or families to gather and watch the live-stream of our worship service together.

During the next few weeks we will explore what Sunday School could look like for children and youth. We will communicate any plans with the parents of children and youth.

At this point we anticipate that **Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**, will be the earliest we could begin meeting for corporate worship. We also anticipate that there will be changes to our worship space and services to help us adhere to social distance and group size recommendations. We will continue to live-stream our worship services for the foreseeable future.

Individuals and groups can begin reserving church facilities (Fellowship Hall, Community Room, etc.) for use on and after **July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Remember that these dates are dependent upon the state and county plans for reopening, so changes to the above dates are possible. The Elders will meet again on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> to continue discernment on our reopening plans. Updates or changes to this plan will be sent out via email and posted on the church website.

We understand that there are many different opinions on how, when, and if church activities should resume. As leadership groups, our goal is to listen to the guidance of the Spirit as we also listen to the counsel of our community health leaders. We ask that you continue to pray for the pastors, Elders, and Ministry Teams as they work together to discern our next steps. Please remain patient and understanding in this process. And, please practice good hygiene and stay home if you have a cough, aches or have a fever.