

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently the board met to discuss reopening the church for in-person services. Giving consideration to the guidance provided by state and local officials regarding COVID-19 the decision was made to reopen on Sunday, May 31. To manage the six (6) feet distancing requirement there will be changes to how we “normally” do things. Your patience and understanding are appreciated as we sort through how to best meet the guidelines while providing a safe and healthy environment for you to attend church.

On Sunday, May 31, the church will reopen for in-person worship service, only. All other Sunday morning activities will be suspended at this time including, church school, coffee/social time, Worship and Wonder, choir and bread for visitors.

When you arrive please enter through the Narthex doors, all other doors will remain locked and used for emergency exit only. Just a reminder, there are four handicap parking spaces near the Narthex doors and Liberty Plaza offers a ramp for easy access. The doors will open at 10:25, with one person or family entering at a time, maintaining the six (6) feet distance and directed to seating. Pews will be marked to allow for proper distancing. At the end of the service the congregation will be dismissed, one row at a time, through the Narthex doors.

Communion and Offering will be a bit different. At this time, elders and deacons will not participating with the usual duties, but may be asked to offer support in other ways. We will not be passing the communion or offering trays, instead you will pick up an individual prefilled communion as you enter and offering will be deposited in a box as you exit the sanctuary or a new online option, Givelify that will be announced soon.

Other planning notes....there will only be access to the Narthex restroom during the service, the water fountain will not be accessible so feel free to bring water, if needed; it will be your personal choice to wear a mask as they are not required, and as we have been reminded often to refrain from shaking hands, hugging or standing too close to others. There will be some changes to the order of worship that will be explained before the service.

The service will continue to be recorded for those who choose not to attend in-person services or for those who have discovered Branson Christian Church during our weekly online presence. Because editing the service is very time consuming it will be posted, unedited, as recorded. Each Sunday the service will be posted and available for viewing on Facebook at 6:00 pm.

We are looking forward to gathering again in the fellowship of Christ. Although these changes are not what we hoped for, it is a place to begin worshipping together again. Again, your patience and mercy are requested as we try to navigate this uncharted path. We have missed seeing one another and hopefully these changes will only have to be followed a short time. We are in this together as brothers and sisters in Christ!

Blessings,

Jean