

## **MCCC Gathering Team - Long & Short Term Plans - Updated September 16th, 2020**

*MCCC Gathering Team: Rev. Chad Delaney, Pastor Sarah Smith, Pat Hoskin, Katie Baird, Cathy Hakala-Ausperk, Christina Brant, Dottie & Brian Summerlin, Doug Rice, Laura Parker, Beth Voynovich, Becky Tipton*

Since early June, the MCCC Gathering Team has met to discuss church activity outside and inside our building. Through this time we have done our best to honor the best guidance by our health officials and have elected to stay apart during the pandemic. Trying to stay as up to date as possible, it has been made known to me that though cases remain relatively low in Portage County, there have been outbreaks in our local schools, colleges/universities, weddings/funerals, **and** church services. In talking to several health officials, they are grateful for our diligence to be part of the solution and not part of the problem! That being said...this has been hard and we are looking for different ways to be “together”, while apart. Please stay tuned for those opportunities that may come up. In the meantime, let’s continue to grow our relationship with God and remind ourselves that we are bound together in the Holy Spirit as the Body of Christ.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **Long-Term**

Based on our values, our conversations, and feedback from the congregation we continue to have **NO PLAN to reconvene for “in-person” worship in our church building until at least after January 1st.** It breaks our hearts to think of Advent and Christmas without our church building to gather in, but we believe this is best at this time. Of course, if circumstances change in such a way that allows us to gather safely, we will certainly reconsider! Until then, this gives our church staff time and direction to plan and prepare for this sacred season in a different way.

#### **Short-Term**

At this time our short-term criteria for small group gatherings has not changed. That being said, the Gathering Team will meet again next month to see how Portage and neighboring counties are doing with the outbreak to consider the possibility of small-group gatherings in the building during the winter months. This will be considered with great care and consideration of all involved.

I want to thank the Gathering Team and the Congregation for their generosity, support, and encouragement during this time. Much has changed in the last few months, but I want you to know how much I love you all and miss you terribly. I hope and pray the time will come soon for us to gather, but trust that (as hard as it is) this is the best course for the health and safety of our congregation and community. Please hold us in prayer as we navigate this time as your pastors and church staff.

In Christ,  
Rev. Chad Delaney

## MCCC Gathering Team Values and Guidelines

### Core Values

We based all of these recommendations on what we agreed are our core values as a congregation.

- Love for one another and rooted in relationships
- The health and safety of our congregation
- Inclusivity (All means ALL)
- Serving others
- Listening to each other and to God
- Hopeful realism
- Creativity in ministry
- Face-to-face interaction and community
- Vibrant and Lively Worship Experience
- Meeting the needs of everyone in the congregation, especially those isolated

### MCCC Small-group Event Requirements

- Abide by Department of Health Guidelines
- Outdoor (*The gatherings must take place in open air areas, or have at least one open wall if the space is partially enclosed*)
- 6ft Physical Distancing
- Masks Required (*covering nose and mouth*)
- Limit of 10 people (*can be in ballpark*)
- No food or shared items
- No touching
- Sanitizer available
- Bathroom available but discouraged
- People must be able to say they have no new symptoms such as cough or other respiratory symptoms, fever, diarrhea, nausea or unknown rash
- People must be able to know in good faith that they have not been in contact with anyone who has tested positive or shown symptoms recently

### Responsibilities of the Host

- Contact Pastor Chad about an event you hope to host
- Contact Sandi Kossick, our church secretary, to schedule the event & arrange for keys
- Receive and respond to RSVPs from those interested in participating
- Communicate with participants the MCCC requirements for meeting
- Have extra sterile masks available in case participants forget or don't have one
- Have hand sanitizer available
- Discourage bathroom use, but have bathroom clean and available
  - If at church...
    - Sanitize nursery bathroom before and after event. (Sanitizing agents will be available at church)
    - Leave doors ajar into nursery bathroom in attempt to minimize surface touching
    - Disinfecting wipes will be available by door handles and in shared spaces to wipe down and disinfect after being touched by guest