



Ephrata Community CHURCH

CONNECTING YOU WITH GOD AND OTHERS

July 3, 2020

Dear Ephrata Community Church Friends and Family,

As he spoke to his disciples as recorded in John 13:35 Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." The word "love" used in this verse refers to a selfless love that expresses itself in action, doing what is best for others.

As we navigate this unusual time, we desire to take every reasonable action to care for the congregation, community, and beyond.

I want to encourage you to continue to stand in faith. Many aspects of life have changed, but God never changes. Continue to pray for health, strength, and protection over your family and those around you.

From a foundation of faith and prayer, take the proper action to keep yourself and others safe. Months ago, the PA Department of Health issued these common-sense guidelines:

- Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow. Do not use your hands!
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Clean surfaces frequently, including countertops, light switches, cell phones, remotes, and other frequently touched items.
- Stay home if you exhibit any signs of COVID-19.

Let me remind you of procedures already in place at the ECC gatherings.

- We created a "touch free" environment. Doors are propped open, no worship guides, no offering basket passed, etc.
- Additional sanitation procedures are in place in the children's ministry area of the building.
- Hand sanitizing stations at all entrances and throughout the building and masks made available at the Welcome Centers.
- Strict cleaning procedures in high traffic areas between services.
- We've added to our number of weekend services, from two each weekend to four. Providing an environment of space and social distance. Our desire is to operate the building at about 35% of capacity.

70 Clay School Road, Ephrata, PA 17522

I am sure you are aware of the continued increase in COVID-19 cases locally and Governor Wolf's recent adjustments to public protocol. Motivated by a desire to properly apply both faith and action for the well-being of our congregation and community, we plan to make the following adjustments to our weekend gatherings.

- We will recommend that congregants wear masks as they enter and exit the building for our Saturday at 6 p.m., and Sunday 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services. Feel free to remove those masks as you get to your seat in the auditorium.
- Masks will be required at our Sunday 6 p.m. service. This action gives those whose health is compromised the opportunity to worship with others in a safe environment.

In closing, let me remind you that this is not the new normal, but temporary accommodations that can provide the opportunity for us to meet and worship. Much thanks to you for your help and cooperation.

Blessings,



Kevin Eshleman
Lead Pastor