

September 1, 2020

Dear Family of Believers,

The Transition Team is Excited to announce these key programming updates:

**Indoor Worship Starting Sunday, September 13 at 10:45am**

**Thursday Outside at 6pm, Livestream at 8am, Indoor Worship at 10:45am**

In the poll we took of the congregation almost 60% asked for livestream only for the time being. That means that even though the parking lot is empty, our 8 am service will continue to be our most attended. These three comfort levels are to give you three different options to join your Family of Believers in worship!

For Indoor we ask that everyone who **comes first read our Indoor Worship Plan**. This Plan was sent out in our weekly email blast, is available on the Church Website ([www.redeemer-rochester.com](http://www.redeemer-rochester.com)) or you can call the church office and get it mailed to you. For the first few weeks, we ask that anyone planning to attend in-person worship at 10:45am, RSVP. The link for that is on our website, in the email blast, and posted on Facebook. This will help us better prepare for you!

With Sunday school starting on September 27, we ask that worshipers not arrive earlier than 10:30 am.

**Sunday School Opening September 27**

On September 27 we will begin in-person Sunday School. Parents will soon receive detailed communication about how to drop-off and pick-up students and what to expect. There is a registration that will give parents the option for in-person instruction or for distance learning options for their students. Please watch our weekly email, check out the website, or call Josh for more information. A detailed Sunday School Plan is available on our website under COVID Plans titled "COVID-19 Youth and Children's Ministry Plan.

Please note staff and leadership all recognize that this year, because of social distancing numbers, we need to prioritize our space for Sunday School. Kids are one of the hardest demographics to meet with our livestream and we simply need all the space on a Sunday morning for them. This means, for now, there will be no in-person Adult Education. Adults - don't despair! Watch for more information about an exciting development in Small Groups and Adult Education opportunities.

**Confirmation September 16**

Our confirmation programs are beginning again on September 16 in-person. Information has gone out to all these families with the specifics. We also plan to have our postponed Confirmation Service (from April) outdoors on October 4, at 1 pm, so we can confirm last year's class!

## **Office Hours**

Starting on September 8, our office hours will return to their regular hours of 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Church building will be open from during those hours for drop off, pick up and prayer in the sanctuary. The Staff offices will remain open by appointment only. Our staff would love to meet with you and connect. Please call 289-5147 to set up an appointment.

## **Additional Activities**

Our focus has been to get Worship started as a priority and then Sunday School. Once those have started and we have been able to best support their start, we will be working on plans to further open the building to more Redeemer groups and in the future the community again. Watch for more information.

## **As We Start:**

Things are going to look different, so our Transition Team asks first for your prayers! A great prayer to pray straight from the Bible is:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family<sup>[a]</sup> in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. *Ephesians 3:14-21*

Second, we ask that each of you read and put into practice this encouragement from Scripture which has been the guiding Scripture for our Transition Team:

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. *Colossians 3:12-14*

Third, we ask that our coming together would focus on building up each other's faith. There are a lot of differences! This will look different! WE ALL ARE GRIEVING! But we have the opportunity to come together!

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— <sup>12</sup> that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. *Romans 1:11-12*

Finally, remember wearing masks and social distancing are not only required; but, taking these precautions out of the love for our neighbor will help us not only open -- but stay open. These will help us not only start, but potentially be able to do more! Also, we ask that everyone please check for any of these symptoms before you enter our building for any reason. If you have any of these symptoms, please stay home.

- Fever of 100F (37.8C) or greater
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or rapid breathing
- Sore throat
- Runny Nose
- Nasal Congestion
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and/or Vomiting
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Loss of taste or smell

We thank you for your patience, your prayers, and for joining us in keeping our Eyes on Jesus in this difficult time! It didn't surprise Him, so we are thankful that He is the author of our faith and our story!

Blessings from the Transition Team!