



Maple Grove Church of the Brethren

960 Orange Township Road 964
Ashland, Ohio 44805-9520
(419) 289-9341

June 4, 2020

Dear Maple Grove Church Family,

The last few months have been difficult to say the least. No one would have ever predicted that we would be doing services online for an extended amount of time. I truly can say that I have missed you all very much and I'm sure you feel the same. I want to thank and applaud you for hanging in there for such a long time. However, I have some great news that might encourage all of us. The church board and I have decided that it is time to open up the doors of Maple Grove. We will be opening on Sunday, June 14, at 10:25 am for our weekly worship service.

The Ministerial Commission met on May 26, 2020, to discuss how and when to re-open Maple Grove Church for services. They forwarded the proposal to the church board and the church board voted on June 3rd to re-open. There are some guidelines that we need to put in place for this re-opening to work. So, please take some time to read and familiarize yourself and your family with some of the changes. These recommendations were approved by the church board in order to re-open:

1. Resume in-person Sunday worship services June 14, 2020.
2. Sunday school classes will continue not to meet at this time.
3. The nursery and preschool rooms will be closed.
4. Parents will need to bring any needed items to occupy their children during the worship service as there will be no activity bags given to the children.
5. All doors and windows will be kept open for both ventilation and to reduce the need to touch or handle common surfaces.
6. Seating in the sanctuary will be spaced out using every other pew and separating household groups/families within pews. (Groups consist of those persons to whom you have already been exposed, such as those who came together in the same car)
7. Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pews. Song lyrics will be available on the video screens and worshippers are encouraged to bring their own Bibles.
8. Any time of greeting will be without physical contact.

9. Restroom use will need to be limited to emergency only.
10. No microphones will be passed among the congregation. Announcements and Joys & Concerns will be shared in an alternative manner.
11. Bulletins will be handed out by a greeter or usher wearing gloves. Please feel free to take one but keep it with you so that someone else does not pick it up.
12. The offering will be taken via a collection box/container, rather than by passing of collection plates. On-line offering will still be available if want to use.
13. Upon conclusion of the service, worshippers will be released by row (similar to weddings and funerals) beginning at the rear of the sanctuary, then forward so as to maintain social distancing.
14. Once dismissed, persons are to immediately leave the building without socializing in the Gathering Room. Fellowship may occur outdoors if appropriate distancing occurs.
15. Pastor Steve will be in the carport area to talk and fellowship with everyone. Please feel free to talk with him, but please make no physical contact for the safety of the people that follow after you.
16. The worship service will continue to be video recorded and made available for viewing on the website.
17. If you do not feel comfortable coming to our live service, please stay home. There is no one that will judge you or think anything about you staying safe.
18. If you do not feel well or have a fever, please stay home. We want you safe and we want to keep everyone else safe as well.
19. Face masks and hand sanitizer will be made available for use.

We are so excited to see you and worship with you again. Please be praying for our church and ask the Lord to show us how we can be the most effective for our community at this time. Pray that God opens many doors for us to further His kingdom. Hopefully, we see you June 14th

God Bless You,

Pastor Steve

Philippians 1:3-4 "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy"