

June 12, 2020

Dear New City Family,

Praise God for the blessing of being able to live stream our services as we have done our part in trying to slow the spread of COVID-19 by not physically gathering. Over the past three months a New City task force, including deacons, elders, staff, and pastors, has met each Tuesday morning to pray and plan for our eventual return. In addition, a group of New City doctors and other medical personnel provided helpful advice from their research and expertise.

The session believes that it's time for us to resume in-person worship on June 21st beginning with one service for approximately 100 people. The goal of this graduated return to in-person worship is to allow staff, leadership, and the congregation time to develop familiarity with and skill at following new church protocols consistent with federal, state, and local health guidelines.

We know that the decision to resume in-person gatherings is serious and should be made in consideration of preserving and protecting health and safety to the greatest extent practical. Caring for the elderly and for those who are at greater health risk is of utmost importance. We do not want to put vulnerable populations in greater danger, so we will continue online services and other creative methods of worship and ministry for those who will wait to gather in person.

While we can do many things to lower our risk, we will never be able to create a 100% risk-free space for worship in person. As we practice good risk management, our ultimate goal is to create as safe an environment as is reasonably possible. With the procedures we are putting in place, we believe our risk will be very low.

There will be an Eventbrite page for you to register to attend the June 21st 8:30 AM service so that we do not exceed the recommended capacity in our sanctuary. We will include that link in next week's email along with more information about what to expect. I know this letter does not provide *all* the details or answer every question you may have, but be assured that we are praying and planning for the many details necessary to return safely and confidently. We ask for your continued prayers for us as we seek God's wisdom.

If you have a question or concern for the New City COVID-19 task force, feel free to email me at bmckillop@newcityfellowship.com.

Praise God for his blessing and protection.

In his loving care,

Billy McKillop
Executive Pastor
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