

Dear LaGrave Family,

Hello from here. Fall is in the air, and if you've been worshipping with us in LaGrave's parking lot, you're aware that mornings are cooler than they used to be! Recognizing that, we're reaching out to offer a few more details about re-gathering for indoor, in-person worship.

At its September 14 meeting, Council approved re-engaging **indoor morning worship services at LaGrave. These will begin on Sunday, October 11, at both 8:40 and 11:00 a.m.** This is good news, and a step toward the Sunday morning rhythms and interactions we love and miss.

LaGrave seeks to be a place of spiritual nurture and Christian growth for members, *and also* to be a compelling witness for Christ by doing all we can to protect the health of those in our surrounding communities. So re-gathering for in-person worship will look different than it did when we were all together at this time last year:

- Worshippers will register to attend using a weekly email link.
- Seating capacity will be reduced based on public health physical distancing guidelines. The Sanctuary, Chapel, and MultiPurpose Room will all be available for seating.
- In keeping with public health guidelines, worshippers will wear masks while inside the building.
- As we cautiously start to regather, we will ask in-person worshippers to refrain from one of our most beloved practices--congregational singing. This is a loss. We will offer some ideas about joining our hearts in worship while we wait to join our voices.
- Children's ministries will become available as we are able to staff them.

We anticipate reviewing these Sunday practices regularly based on unfolding health guidance. More detailed information about what to expect when we return for in-person worship will be forthcoming.

We are eager to welcome everyone back. We dearly wish we could responsibly pack the sanctuary and sing our hearts out together. **Yet we also know that many members and visitors still need to join in worship online. So livestream worship will continue**—where you can safely sing at the top of your lungs and watch the organist up-close-and-personal. The modified practices for worship in LaGrave's building will be reminders that our in-person fellowship is incomplete during this unusual time.

When Council met in September, our opening devotions focused on Exodus 3:15 and John 4:23, grounded in the truth that God is a God of people, not a God of places. As pastors we've continued to ponder that, and to contemplate what kind of temple God is building (1 Peter 2:5) as he continues to shape us as his representatives on this earth. Covid can't stop this work.

Grace and peace until we meet again.