



Hebron Christian Church
610 West Main Street ♦ Hebron, Ohio 43025 ♦ 740-928-4066

Greetings Church family!

We pray that you are all doing well and thriving in the midst of this beautiful summer season.

It is our pleasure to tell you that the Elders have been hard at work over these last weeks and months as we navigate this COVID-19 season. We have been discussing plans for re-opening our church and have been seeking God's wisdom with every step. The beginning of this month we sent out a survey via email as well as through our newsletter and other church communication channels. Our desire was to understand where our regular attenders felt comfortable in the midst of this reentry phase our nation is experiencing. We have received feedback from 70% of our regular congregants and appreciate you taking the time to respond. The Elders have discussed the results of those surveys and are in the process of answering the questions noted by those who responded. We have also formulated a four phase plan for reentry. It is important to note that the survey revealed our congregation's comfort level is all across the board in the midst of this pandemic. We want to be sensitive to those who are not yet ready to fully re-integrate to weekly services and we also want to be sensitive to those who are ready to go. We believe that this 4 phase plan helps address these concerns, provides the means by which to move forward, and communicates that we honor, respect, value and appreciate your feedback and the concerns on your heart.

Our 4 phase plan allows for a slow re-entry beginning in mid July and taking us through the end of 2020. We are all, as a nation, beginning to understand that life as we knew it before this pandemic is gone. Things have changed and will continue to change. It is likely that we as a nation and as a church will never fully return to life as we knew it before COVID-19. We realize that we must continue to adapt to new thought processes, new guidelines and new ways of doing and thinking. We understand the same is true for us as a church. The reality of what's happening in our world requires us to respond in different ways. As Elders and leaders of the church we are trying to do so with wisdom and God's direction. We have determined through much prayer and discussion that this is the best plan for our future steps.

Our 4 phase phase plan is as follows:

Phase 1 (July 19-Sept 6)

Throughout the weeks and months of this pandemic we have begun increasing our digital presence. We have found that through live streaming on Facebook and our weekly podcast we have picked up new followers for our ministry some of whom have even contributed financially to our church and have served as a source of encouragement throughout. The Elders have discussed this live streaming entity in great detail and it is our desire to continue to maintain this

online presence to enable us to reach outside the doors of our church week after week. As such we will be investing in new technology that will raise the quality of our live streaming while opening up new streaming platforms. This will also enable us to integrate more multimedia elements in the worship service as well.

Phase 1 of our reentry program includes maintaining the Live stream format while also integrating in person presence for those who are ready. Beginning July 19, we will open up the doors of our church for those who are ready to come and be a part of our existing Sunday morning experience. We will continue the current format of the live stream (Welcome, Prayer, Sermon, Communion Meditation, Communion, Benediction) through Phase 1. We will also be adding a drive-in entity. If you would like to be present at church on Sunday morning but you don't feel comfortable coming into the sanctuary we would invite you to come as you are and stay in your car. We have designated the south east corner of the church parking lot by the front porch to be our drive-in worship area. We will be broadcasting our sermon audio via FM transmitter to our drive-in church audience. We will also provide a television monitor that will be placed on the front porch which will enable those to see the visual presence of our live stream at the drive-in area. The monitor will show video only, you can access audio through your radio or you are certainly welcome to access our live stream via cell phone and watch from your personal device in the drive-in area.

During Phase 1, for those who wish to be present in the sanctuary as our live stream audience, we would ask that you would enter through the south west doors of the church. Those are the doors closest to the parsonage on Main Street. The only exception to using those doors would be for those who need to use the elevator and are certainly welcome to do so. We ask that all others enter only through the south west door on Main street. Your in-person experience will be vastly different than the in-person church experience we have known in the past but will be true to the format of our live stream. You'll be greeted at the door and given communion elements. We will be using prepackaged communion elements and those will be handed to you by someone using appropriate sanitary processes. If you are uncomfortable with prepackaged communion items we would invite you to bring your own elements with you and would invite you to utilize those elements that make you feel most comfortable. We would ask that when you select a seat in the sanctuary for the live stream that you would practice appropriate social distancing, placing yourself at least 6 feet away from anyone that does not live in your house with you. The Elders have also decided that during this season all printed materials generally available will be temporarily removed. This includes pew Bibles, Hymnals, Chalice Praise books, tithe envelopes and sign in logs. The items on the information table located at the entry at the south east entry door will also be removed. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the sanctuary. Masks are welcome and encouraged but not mandatory. During this time we would ask that you would refrain from hugging and handshakes and continue to maintain social distance practices. The building will be open only during our live stream service time. We will not resume coffee fellowship at this time and all other in person meetings inviting 10 or more people are strongly discouraged and must be approved by the Elders before scheduling.

We want to make it very clear that we want you to connect at the level you feel comfortable connecting especially during Phase 1. Our online live stream will continue and we hope to expand our live stream to more platforms throughout Phase 1 and continuing into the future. If you are most comfortable connecting online we would encourage you to continue connecting via that online service format. If you are comfortable utilizing the drive-in option we would encourage you to do so and certainly if you were comfortable being in attendance in the sanctuary during our live stream we would be pleased to welcome you in person.

We anticipate that Phase 1 will begin July 19 and continue through September 6. This is an eight week timeframe. Beginning September 13 we will plan to enter Phase 2

Phase 2 of re-opening is when you will begin to see more things return. The Sunday morning service format will be similar to what we have always known. It is during Phase 2 that we would expect to begin singing again in worship and enjoying some of the regular aspects we have always known. Over the next weeks and months we will provide more detailed information for you regarding Phase 2 and the remaining phases. We anticipate that Phase 2 will last from September 13 through October 25.

In Phase 3 of our re-opening we expect to be able to open up many opportunities at that time. We will still be conservative about social distancing and ensuring proper sanitizing in all areas. We anticipate that Phase 3 will be November 1 through December 31 we will communicate details during Phase 2 to let you know what Phase 3 will look like.

We anticipate Phase 4 will begin January 2021. This is when we expect to be able to open up our regular group activities such as mission trip, Vacation Bible School etc. More details will be communicated to you regarding Phase 4 for during Phase 3.

Please know that we believe this is the best plan at this point in time. As new information becomes available we will continue to evaluate and move to alter our plans to accommodate new information or threats. The Elders have increased our frequency of meeting to be able to evaluate and respond to the changing recommendations and realities. That may mean reintegrating at a faster pace or it may mean reintegrating at a slower pace. Please know that our hearts desire as Elders and leaders is to help bring people closer to Jesus. We hope that this plan allows us to facilitate spiritual growth while using wisdom and compassion. Again, I want to make it very clear we want you to connect at the level you feel comfortable connecting. Please don't feel pressured to move at a faster pace than you were ready to move. As Christ followers we are called to extend grace, to be understanding and to act with compassion. Especially during this season we want you to experience the reality of God's grace in your lives and in your church.

We appreciate your continued support and prayers during this time and are excited to begin these next steps. We will continue to provide more detailed communication as we move forward

but if you have questions at this point we would invite you to reach out to us via email info@myhebronchristianchurch.com or connect directly with Pastor Tina or one of our Elders.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Tina and the HCC Board of Elders