

Dear Members and Friends of Zion's:

The Consistory met on June 3, 2020 and part of the meeting was a discussion about returning to worship in the sanctuary. As you may know, Mercer County did not officially go "green" until June 5, 2020. What we discovered is that there was very little information available about measures that needed to be considered to return to in-person worship. For that reason, we decided to continue the discussion at our July 1 meeting, hoping there would be more clarity and resources to allow us to develop a written plan for return to in-person worship and church activities.

We do know that live streaming the worship service will continue for the foreseeable future and we have approved the expenditure of funds to have internet access in the sanctuary and proper equipment to do the live stream broadcast.

We do know some things that need to be taken in to consideration:

- +Seating will be arranged for social distancing
- +Masks will be required
- +Use of hand sanitizer will be encouraged
- +Offering plates will be placed to drop in your offering as you enter or leave
- +Communion will be served in individual wafer and juice sets
- +No congregational or choir singing or responsive reading
- +No serving of food for fellowship/drinks may be available poured by one person only

Other considerations:

- +What doors will be open
- +Availability of bathrooms and water fountains
- +Who will clean and disinfect before and after services
- +New duties for ushers-opening doors, seating, and handing out bulletins
- +Maximizing air flow in the sanctuary
- +Requirements for outside groups to continue to meet

We were scheduled to have our spring congregational meeting to elect elders to serve on consistory. It was decided to cancel the spring meeting and hold elections and vote on a budget at the December congregational meeting. All elders whose terms were to expire in June have agreed to continue to serve for the additional time.

We appreciate your patience as we work to keep everyone safe and healthy. And we are very grateful for your support of the church financially and in volunteering to care for the community. This will be a gradual process of finding the new normal. Please let any member of the Consistory know if you have thoughts or concerns as we develop our written plan.

In faithful service,

Mike Menold, Lynn Rinella, Kelly Bielata, Sue Nicklin, George Donner, John Enterline, Jon Fry, Linda Seeley, Vikki Young, Pastor June.