

Dear Friend,

As you may know [stronger restrictions](#) are being implemented by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the next 3 weeks. These restrictions are somewhat different than what Michigan experienced in the spring-time because part of the economy will remain open and there is no "stay at home order" per se. Regardless, this notification is for the purpose of conveying how God is leading us forward as a church during this process.

The [new restrictions](#) only affect the church in one area currently. Our middle and high school students at FaithWay will be required to do distance learning from November 18th to December 8th. As it pertains to religious gatherings, there are no restrictions except for a strong recommendation for the use of face coverings while worshipping. This has been the case throughout the pandemic.

It's important to understand that our responsibility as a church is to make sure our people are spiritually healthy and growing as believers. The challenge that many church leadership teams are facing throughout the country is this question: *how do we avoid sacrificing the spiritual well being of our people while also considering their physical well-being?* Our pathway forward as a church is one that continually keeps this question in full focus. It's a pathway that seeks to provide a comprehensive opportunity for spiritual growth to all of our people while using wisdom to the best of our ability to keep people physically healthy. It requires us to consider thoughtfully two key scriptures in this regard which are to "*love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18)*" and "*not forsaking our own assembling together (Heb. 10:25).*"

I believe the spiritual function of the church is an essential service to society. We are to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth at all times! People are hurting, lonely and depressed and we have a living hope to share with them, as well as the responsibility to encourage one another. During times of great distress throughout history [the church did not shrink back](#), but rather stepped up to the challenge. This year has been a year of great distress for people all over the world and our goal is to deliver the gospel of Jesus Christ to as many as possible during this time. We have to do our job during every season.

Our objective as a church is to provide ministry to three general categories of people during this pandemic: *the **quarantined**, the **vulnerable**, and the **healthy**.*

1. For those who are **quarantined** we will continue to provide our online services via [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).
2. For those who are at a [higher risk of the adverse effects of Covid-19](#) you can either watch online or attend our 9am Sunday service with social distancing and face coverings.
3. And for those who are not in the [CDC's High Risk Category](#) we will continue to provide our 11am Sunday service and 7pm Wednesday night service (including children and youth ministry) as long as you meet the following criteria:

You are not showing [symptoms](#) of Covid-19

You have not had [close contact](#) with someone who recently tested positive for Covid-19

You have not recently [tested](#) positive for Covid-19

In any of these cases you will need to test negative for Covid-19 or meet the 10-14 day quarantine threshold before returning to an in-person service (check with your doctor for specifics on the threshold).

CenterPoint Church will continue to fulfill our mandate to obey the Great Commission by making disciples, as well as fulfill our obligation to obey the Great Commandment by loving our neighbor as ourselves. If we use wisdom and keep each other's best interest in mind throughout this pandemic, we will come out of it reflecting the nature of Jesus Christ like never before! I will be providing weekly reminders of these safeguards from multiple communication platforms until we begin to see cases decrease in our area. These safeguards are subject to change at any time due to the fluid nature of this situation. If you have any questions about these updated parameters please contact the church office at 810-743-0000.

For His Glory,

Pastor Kyle Bailey