



Love · Grow · Serve · Go

IMPORTING INFORMATION REGARDING THE NEXT STEPS OF OLIVET FREE CHURCH

⁸ Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. ⁹ Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9 (NLT)

Dear Olivet family,

You have been amazing these past 3 months. Thank you for being patient, prayerful, encouraging and generous. Let's admit it...we've been "feeling our way" through this together. None of us were prepared for this never-before-experienced time, but good things have happened as hundreds of people have been exposed to the Good News about Jesus through Olivet's online services that had never walked through the doors of our building. Let's keep reaching OUT and not lose sight of the opportunities we have to reach further through our online presence!

Moving forward, we encourage you to take part in the worship and teaching ministry of Olivet in the setting that is best for you. The services will still be available for you to watch in your home on your device when it is convenient for you. OR, you may want to seek the fellowship of others in your church family or neighborhood and have a "group" watching experience. In this setting, everyone should be healthy and gather in the space that has the biggest "smart TV" and enjoy the service together, perhaps followed by a snack or meal and a time of discussion and/or prayer! The THIRD option, and the details that follow, are about the live services being offered on campus.

Please keep this information sheet handy for the next number of weeks as we re-open our two campuses. Our goal is to provide an environment that is both safe and joyful within the guidelines proposed by the Center for Disease Control.

1.) Live services will **begin Sunday, June 14**. We begin with the service times we had previously: Marquette Campus at 9:00AM and Harvey Campus at 10:45AM. Currently we are only able to offer 1 service at each campus and the number of people attending will be limited based on "safe distancing" guidelines. Please do not show up more than 10-15 minutes before the service and when you enter the building, we will ask that you move toward the worship centers and be seated. No congregating in the foyers before or after the services.

2.) Because numbers are limited, **we are asking people to "reserve" space in the service** so you will know that there will be a seat for you and your spouse/family. Each week the Olivet secretaries will take your phone calls (231-798-2900) or your e-mails (olivetoffice1@gmail.com) and will confirm your space. IF we are over-capacity for a given service or week, they will give you the option of being guaranteed space the next Sunday. What we don't want is someone getting up on Sunday, showered and dressed but then finding out we are over capacity. We will honor your reservation so please, if things change with you, let us know so someone else can take your space.

3.) **We ask that you wear a facemask into the building and until you get to your seat.**

Please bring your own facemask with you (since they are still hard to come by and somewhat expensive). If you do not have a facemask, we will have some to offer you. It seems facemask wearing is one of the most controversial things during this time, but PLEASE, out of love and kindness for those who desire to be present in church, honor one another in this way. (See the Scripture above.) We ask that you refrain from handshakes, fist bumps, high fives and any other physical contact. Once you are seated, you can take your facemask off until our time of singing (experts say this is when we emit the most “moisture” from our mouths) , and then when departing. We will also have hand sanitizer stations and ask that everyone use these when you first enter the building (and as many times as you choose after).

4.) When you enter the worship centers, you will be seated beginning in the front rows and moving toward the back in an orderly way. We’ve always said, “There are no reserved seats at Olivet.”, and this is true now more than ever. At the conclusion of the service, we will dismiss our guests much like a wedding (except in reverse). Those in the back will be dismissed first, then ushers will move toward the front. We ask that you leave the building (again, no congregating in the foyers) but once in the parking lot, you can gather and talk with others to the extent you feel comfortable.

5.) In the services, for the time being, the worship through music will be recorded (like the worship videos over the past few months) but the rest of the service (prayer, announcements and preaching) will be “live”.

6.) There will be NO children’s ministry or nursery offered at this time. It is simply impossible to keep children from “being kids” and touching each other and each other’s stuff. Parents, you may bring your children and sit in the worship center, but we plan to make the lower foyer a place that families can choose to sit at tables and we will have individual activity bags for the kids to use during the service. Extra grace is requested from anyone who finds themselves sitting near parents with children so these families will feel welcome and loved.

7.) For safety’s sake, there will be no coffee or treats but you can bring beverages in with you and we will have individual bottles of water available each Sunday (since drinking fountains are not to be used). The restrooms will be open and a team of volunteers will be paying attention to door handles and other surfaces that are frequently touched, providing ongoing disinfecting.

8.) There will be offering boxes placed in the back of the worship center for your convenience. Our convenient on-line and “Give+” app options will continue of course.

I know this is a lot of information but thanks for taking the time to read it. Of course, I am always willing to take your phone call (or read an e-mail) and respond to any questions or concerns you have. Thanks in advance for having a discerning heart and a great attitude as we demonstrate love and humility toward each other!

Rejoicing in Jesus!

Pastor Craig