



NORTHERN HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

September 5th, 2020

Dear NHCC Family,

This is Labor Day Weekend, the official end of summer and beginning of fall. Many people will travel this weekend to spend time with family and friends. If you will not be able to join us in church this Sunday we will miss you. I want to encourage everyone to make it a point to be present Sunday, Sept. 13th. We will start a new worship service schedule and begin a new series of messages on The Beatitudes.

Please read carefully the information below. There are several matters that apply to you. In many ways we need your participation. Please help us by proactively responding and not leaving things unaddressed.

Two-Service Worship Service Format – Beginning on September 13th, we will be going to two worship services each Sunday. The **early service will be at 9:30 AM**. The **late service will be at 11 AM**. We have demonstrated an ability to safely come and go for public worship. We have gotten accustomed to necessary changes for things like communion and offering. The two-service format will increase the number who attend each service which will help to make things seem a little bit more normal.

Going to a two-service format will take some pressure off of our staff and volunteers. Our worship band will start using more people and using more than just the acoustic set we have featured the past several weeks. I think you will appreciate the change.

We will maintain the mandated protocols that have been handed down from our governor. This includes appropriate social distancing and the wearing of masks inside the building when social distancing cannot be maintained. To clarify, you are invited to wear your mask when entering the building and find a seat... **after you are seated you can remove your mask because you will be in a configuration that assures social distancing**. We hope that this will encourage some who have avoided attending because wearing a mask for an hour-long service has been problematic.

We do not think it necessary to know which specific service people are planning to attend. We have room to accommodate the flow of attendance as it normally occurs. Week to week, please attend the service that meets your needs.

Wednesday Teen Programming (meeting in the Youth House) – Our teens will be resuming their weekly meeting schedule...

-Sept. 9th – Fall Kickoff – Fellowship and fun begins at 6 PM

-Sept. 16th begins regular fall program each Wednesday 7-8 PM (fellowship at 6 PM)

September – “Fundamentals of Christianity”

October – “How to Study Your Bible”

Wednesday Adult Bible Study – begins Sept. 16th from 7-8 PM – “Studies in the Life of Christ” (meeting in the church lobby). Please note that because of the continuing pandemic complications, this is an adult-only study with no children’s programming offered. Adults are welcome to bring their children to be present in the adult study, but for the time being we will not offer children’s programming.

Children’s Programming - We are anxious to get our children’s ministry functioning once again. We cannot do this immediately for obvious reasons... We have parents and volunteers who are hesitant to put themselves and/or their children into potentially risky circumstances. As the threat of the pandemic wanes, we want to be ready to teach and serve our children.

We are carefully watching the school re-openings in our area to learn important lessons and to pick up ideas that may well be useful for us as we move toward opening up our children's programming in the weeks ahead. We are interested in learning the concerns and suggestions of parents and volunteer workers.

To help us get this feedback and address matters from our families with children, we will be hosting a series of Internet-based (Zoom) meetings with parents and volunteers to see where we stand and to help piece together a plan for moving forward. Some meetings will be scheduled for parents of children. Other meetings will be hosted for those who want to teach and volunteer in the process.

Schedule of Zoom Meetings for Children's Programming

Sept. 9th – Wednesday 7 PM - Parents

Sept. 15th – Tuesday 7 PM – Teacher/Volunteers

Sept. 21st – Monday 7 PM - Parents

Sept. 22nd – Tuesday 7 PM – Teachers/Volunteers

These meetings are open to any who are interested in learning about the programming and being involved. In order to attend the meeting you must request the Zoom link. Send me a note saying you are interested (goodnewsken@gmail.com). I will send you the invite and link so you can participate. These meetings will only be as successful as people are willing to be involved. Please contact me ASAP so I can get invitations/links sent out.

The logistics of trying to make a teaching environment for our children work is a daunting task. I need to hear from ALL of our parents. I also need for adults to step up and be willing to teach. Please let me hear from you.

Staffing and Programming for Teens – I recently held a meeting with key volunteers working with our Student Ministries. Information and recommendations from that meeting will be discussed in a few days among our elders. I am confident that we have our needs covered in the immediate future. Even more exciting, I am optimistic about our long-term vision for staff and emphasis once we get beyond the challenges of the pandemic. Please keep all of these efforts in your prayers. We will be sharing specifics in the near future.

Church Phone System – It may be that if you attempted to call the church office this past week and were unable to get through. Our hope is that these problems will be resolved soon if they have not been already. In the interim, if you cannot get through to the church office, please feel free to call me directly or text me if you prefer (513.884.8697).

NHCC Education Connections –

With the uncertainty families are facing because of schooling in the current pandemic, NHCC wants to identify ways to serve and encourage one another in love. Everyone's situation is unique. Some of us are in a position to help and serve those in need, and some within our church body need help. Our goal is to connect the NHCC body with one another. If you have needs such as tutoring, latchkey situations, emergency childcare, transportation, questions about homeschooling, etc. and alternatively, if you can help volunteer with any of these needs listed, please contact your shepherding elder or Katie Gnagey.

We are living in increasingly turbulent times. In many ways our society is in the midst of a perfect storm that threatens stability and peace. As a result angst, fear, depression, and hopelessness are pushing people to the brink. As disciples of Jesus Christ, now is the time for us to be a light in a dark world. We must live as people who are confident about the future because heaven is our home. Let's be that small slice of the population that knows peace and shares it in the form of kindness and encouragement wherever we go.

Pray for our church family.

Blessings,

Ken