

## Minister's Article

### **COVID Update**

*Given the time of my time away from Decatur last week and the announcement of this news from our state officials, we could not get this announcement in last week's Visitor. Therefore, we share it here. This is the same announcement as was emailed and posted at the end of last week.*

As you are probably aware by now, Macon County has been put under Resurgence Mitigations due to the COVID-19 pandemic as of November 1, 2020. After consultation and conversation with the Macon County Health Department, we learned that the 25-person limit on social gatherings does, in fact, pertain to houses of worship in general and worship services in particular. As we have publicly shared with you – the church family – from the beginning of this pandemic, our church leadership committed to erring on the side of caution and following the guidelines handed down by our local, regional and state authorities. Therefore we plan to remain consistent with this practice and abide by the latest round of directives.

What does that mean for us, beginning this Sunday, November 8 (until further notice)?

- 1) Fortunately, due to our already-in-place precautions not much. We still plan on having in-person worship (with all of the usual guidelines in place – temperature checks, masks, hand-washing, social distancing).
- 2) We will continue to offer an outstanding online option as well (with all services live-streamed). Given that, if you are in any way hesitant about in-person worship, this would be an ideal time to remain at home on Sundays and support Central through virtual attendance.
- 3) For the in-person worship community, we are looking at adding additional safety measures that ensure that we abide by the 25-person gathering limit.

Your pastoral staff and congregation president and vice-president understands that this latest news likely adds to the overall sense of fatigue many of us feel regarding the current pandemic. But we are committed to keeping our congregation together through these difficult times, and trust in your understanding and willingness to be flexible to allow that to remain a most realistic possibility.

If anyone wishes to speak more about this – with either myself or the congregational president (Gregg Foltz) or vice-president (Brett Swallow) – please don't hesitate to let me know. I will be happy to direct you accordingly. Thank you for your continued commitment to, and support of, Central!

Blessings... Michael