

# Kidron Mennonite Plans for Regathering

The leadership of Kidron Mennonite, in coordination with Salem and Sonnenberg, are regathering our congregations for corporate worship (tentatively) on June 21. Two things we ask in advance are: 1) that you familiarize yourselves with the following plan and its implications for your household, and 2) that you wear compassion at all times with your brothers and sisters (Colossians 3:12-13). While some pieces of our plan add obstacles to our meeting, and other needs are left unaddressed, know that we are working to provide loving ministry to our whole congregation as best as we can envision. As we try to walk a delicate line between hope and caution, we acknowledge that not everyone will feel comfortable with these plans. If you are at all hesitant to rejoin us, we understand and support you if you feel the need to stay home. Do let us know how we can help meet your spiritual needs as well. We will continue to offer live streaming of our worship services and invite you to join us at 9:30 AM (if possible) so we may at least experience worship simultaneously. For those of us comfortable meeting in the building, let us exercise our “freedom in love” to minimize obstacles so that those with higher risks, compromised immune systems, or anxieties may join us sooner rather than later (1 Corinthians 8:9 and 13:5). Let us continue to practice what it means to be Kidron Mennonite Church, Living and Building the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 22:35-40 and 28:18-20). Now here are answers to some of your questions:

## **What are our dates for regathering?**

June 21 is our tentative date for regathering in the KMC sanctuary.

On June 28, we are scheduled for outdoor worship at the Kidron Community Park at 10 AM. Bring chairs or blankets for your household. In the event of inclement weather, we will return to the KMC sanctuary.

July 5 and beyond we anticipate worshipping together in the KMC sanctuary.

## **Is the Worship Service truly the only thing taking place on-site?**

Yes, for now. There will be no nursery, Sunday School classes (see below) or other active programming on-site at KMC. There will be passive engagement for children in the form of take home or disposable activity packets, available in both the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Building (at family-group tables).

## **Are Sunday School classes and Small Groups meeting?**

We know these groups matter! Meetings of these groups are not forbidden, however we will not be providing spaces or times for them on-site for the moment. You may meet elsewhere. Each group will need to determine their levels of comfort and what works best for their group. Some will reconvene sooner than others. Recommendations are still for groups of 10, so larger groups may consider breaking into sub-groups. Finding adequate space for appropriate physical distancing is a challenge, so this may mean your Small Group may meet outdoors, at a different location and time, or virtually.

## **Are some people forbidden to attend the service?**

No, that's not true. However, if you are not feeling well, have symptoms of an illness (see list at end of this document) or uncomfortable regathering on-site, please consider joining us via our livestream at [www.kidronmennonite.com](http://www.kidronmennonite.com) . This is a public link and you don't need an account to view. Additionally, you can watch live via the Kidron Mennonite Facebook or YouTube pages. Video should be viewable at later times on all three websites.

## **What if I'm in a high-risk category?**

Those in a high-risk category are encouraged to use wisdom and discernment regarding their participation in the service. We affirm erring on the side of caution. If you are unsure of your own risk, getting your information directly from the Centers for Disease Control ( [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) ) or Wayne County Health department ( [www.wayne-health.org/coronavirus](http://www.wayne-health.org/coronavirus) ) are encouraged.

## **What's going to be different on June 21?**

4 exterior doors will be propped open and supplied with hand sanitizer. These doors will be at the South, Carport, back of Education Center, and double-door at back of the sanctuary (Kidron Road side).

A friendly, masked volunteer will greet you outdoors (weather permitting) and help give some direction for things like bathrooms and "Masks-only" spaces. (Further information later.)

The Gathering Place and Cafe will not be in use for the time being. This means there will be no coffee or snacks provided in the church building. (You are welcome to bring your own if needed.) Water fountains will also be turned off.

Also, church mailboxes will not be used. We will continue to send out electronic updates (or hard copy for those without internet access), and invite you to use the mail service to send cards and notes.

At the interior doors to the sanctuary, you will find collection boxes for tithes and offerings. These will remain in place throughout the service. You may also continue to give online through [www.kidronmennonite.com](http://www.kidronmennonite.com) or [bit.ly/givekmc](http://bit.ly/givekmc).

Hosts will help you find seats as a “household” to maximize space and allow appropriate physical distancing. “Households” may consist of groups of unrelated persons who are comfortable sitting together. Please arrange these groups in advance and limit to 6 persons per group.

For the time being, we will not be printing Bulletins, and will have announcements cycle through on the screen before and after the service.

Hymnals will be missing from the racks and lyrics will be shown on the screen.

During the service, our congregational singing will be reduced to 1-2 songs a week when we are indoors. As well, we will not be having Children’s Moments during the service. (See note above regarding activities for children.)

Balconies will be closed at the beginning of the service in order to minimize the work of sanitizing. However, these spaces will be opened once physical distancing cannot be well-maintained on the floor; with the South Balcony designated a “Masks only” space and the East Balcony being open for anyone.

Following the service, we will ask that everyone exit the building in an orderly fashion, attempting to maintain physical distance (6 feet) through the building.

### **Am I required to wear a mask or face covering for worship?**

CDC and KMC staff recommend wearing face masks, but it is not required in the sanctuary. If you desire to gather in the Fellowship Building, then you will need to have a face mask on at all times.

### **Will I be the only one wearing a mask?**

As an act of honor and hospitality to all attendees, KMC staff and volunteers will be wearing masks when performing duties and in close proximity to others.

### **Are there places for me to go where everyone will have a mask?**

First of all, you aren't the first person to ask; so we have multiple options for you depending on your comfort level. For those wanting to take most precautions, the Fellowship Building will be set up as a "Masks Only" space with a livestream of the service. This will allow you to spread out with significant physical distancing, but still be in the presence of other members of the congregation. **We also ask that there be no singing in the Fellowship Building at this time.** If you are more comfortable being around those choosing not to wear a mask, the south section of the sanctuary is also being designated as a "Masks Only" space. If physical distancing becomes squeezed, the south balcony will be opened to you as an additional "Masks Only" space. As we are not creating "Unmasked Only" spaces, individuals wearing masks are not confined to these spaces, but may sit wherever they are comfortable in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Building.

### **I love to touch people. Will Sunday be hard for me?**

Yes. We are glad you have such great love for one another, but we ask that you put your normal responses on hold. For the time being, please allow non-contact greetings like waving and head nods to take the place of shaking hands, fist bumps, hugging, etc. This is especially true when interacting with individuals living in a group housing environment (such as a nursing home), whom are known to be at higher risk, or are young children (without a parent's permission).

### **Can we fellowship with the Church after the service?**

Yes. We ask attendees to make their way to the parking lot before catching up (allowing staff and volunteers to clean the space and complete their closure processes), using physical distance. *We want to ensure that those who gather with us feel comfortable gathering with us again the following week.*

### **Many people are telling me different things about our regathering.**

#### **Where can I get the facts?**

Our website-[www.kidronmennonite.com](http://www.kidronmennonite.com) -will be the home for accurate information, as well as the KMC Facebook page.

### **Is this all fear-based? Doesn't that contradict Scripture?**

The guidelines we have established are not based on fear. They are based on wisdom. KMC Board representatives and Staff have consulted with experts and researched the best practices; and they are in agreement on the plan for using our facilities. The cautions we are taking are based on wisdom and compassion, intending to provide an environment where more of our congregation feels able to regather.

### **How long are we going to have to worship this way?**

Great question. The KMC Board and staff are committed to discerning what is best for the body in these uncertain times. We anticipate these guidelines will be in place until the end of July at the earliest. We are hopeful that this plan is only temporary and much of what we value can be restored. In the meantime, we ask for grace. This plan is not perfect. There will be mistakes, and we're sure we will have to make adjustments, giving us a need to discover how "love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)

### **What if I disagree with this plan?**

This is great time to display Christian maturity. The Bible teaches that there are times we put aside our liberties for the sake of others (1 Corinthians 8, 10:24, Philippians 2:4). We all need to be cautious in our words, both spoken and written. Even as leadership has worked through these plans, we have needed to be reminded that we are all working toward the same goal of worshiping God together with one heart and mind. We believe we can have unity in the Spirit, even when our preferences differ. Still, if you have unaddressed concerns or would like to provide constructive feedback, you may email the Board as always at [kmcboard@kidronmennonite.com](mailto:kmcboard@kidronmennonite.com) .

### **Why do we do all that we do?**

Now, as always, KMC strives to live out our faith in Jesus Christ according to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:35-40), to embody

## **Living and Building the Kingdom of God**

for the good of all people and for God's glory.



## Feeling Sick?

Stay home when you are sick!

If you feel unwell or have the following symptoms  
please leave the building and contact your health care provider.

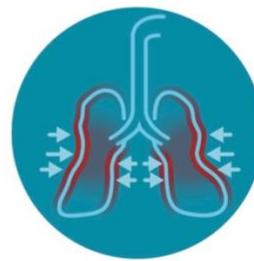
DO NOT ENTER if you have:



**FEVER**



**COUGH**



**SHORTNESS OF  
BREATH**



[cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS](https://cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS)