



Greetings Dear Ones! Perhaps you heard the “yippee” from downtown Chelsea Monday afternoon? That would have been me. On Monday, June 1, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued a new [executive order](#) lifting the “Stay Home/Stay Safe” order immediately. In light of this action, we are no longer asked to refrain from in-person gatherings.

As excited as I am, I know that things cannot and should not simply return to the way they were eleven weeks ago. The coronavirus has not disappeared. Our state has reached this “improving” phase due to the actions we have taken during the shelter in place requirement. I want us to continue to do our part, so that the virus does not re-emerge in our community.

In light of this news, here are some updates:

1. The governor’s executive order continues to require social distancing, the wearing of face coverings at indoor gatherings, and limits indoor gatherings to ten or fewer people. It continues to ask that all work that can be done remotely be done remotely. Therefore, we are not yet ready to resume the full schedule of office hours. Our church staff will be working both from the church building and from home.
2. The church is prepared for individuals and small groups to meet in the building, with prior arrangement. We have a limited number of rooms

available for use at this time, and each is arranged to maintain the minimum 6-foot distance between individuals. Our staff is committed to properly and safely cleaning and sanitizing the facility, to maximize safety for all. We require all persons coming into the building to wear face coverings and follow the “check in” procedure.

3. We will continue online worship in the current format – a Facebook Live gathering at 10 am, with the prerecorded service available on the YouTube channel, at least for June 7 and 14. We may return to a livestream service in the future, but that decision has not yet been made. Under the current executive order, we are not able to have more than ten people in the sanctuary at the same time, so we will not yet be offering in-person worship. Please watch for additional information.
4. A “Re-opening” task force has been formed to make recommendations about when and how to fully reopen the building, restart ministries, etc. The task force will use resources prepared by the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, and will consult local and state public health authorities for information and further guidance.
5. We will continue to provide and improve our on-line presence.
6. We desire to make wise decisions supporting the common good and with consideration for the most vulnerable among us.

I commend you, dear Friends, and I give thanks to God for you. You continue to be remarkably resilient and creative as we worship and share ministry together. Thank you for your steadfastness, generosity, prayers, and faithful partnership in the work of God through Chelsea First United Methodist Church. I look forward to “seeing” you soon.

Yours in the grace and peace of Christ, Pastor Joy

