



# Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren

Continuing the Work of Jesus ....Peacefully, Simply, Together

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April 29, 2020

Dear Church Family,

May God be with you during this time. My prayer for you has been and continues to be that you experience God's presence in new and special ways during this time of physical separation. My prayer for us as a church is that we constantly remember we are called by God to proclaim the good news that Jesus is king and has come and is coming to set the world right, and the truth of that does not change no matter how large of a crisis we may find ourselves in as a society.

By now you will each be familiar with Governor Wolf's plan for reopening Pennsylvania. The math is a little complicated, but the bottom line is that in order to move to the yellow phase of reopening, Lancaster County will need to have fewer than 275 new cases over a 14-day period. As I write this, Lancaster County currently has more than 1000 new cases over the previous 14 days. Obviously, we all want to see life get back to normal. I can't wait to be able to gather with you all again. Equally obviously, we are concerned for the health of all our members and others in our community and so we want to follow the guidance put out by the PA Department of Health.

The fact of the matter is that we do not currently know when we will be able to reopen for in-person services. Church leadership is looking at a plethora of options for how we might do this while adhering to all relevant guidelines. At present, we are waiting to see a decrease in cases of COVID-19 in the county. Once the county is prepared to move to the yellow phase, we will have more options. Please note, however, that even in the yellow phase, large gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited.

This is a difficult time, and it's important that we continually lift one another up in prayer. It's also important that we remember that the church is most the church when we scatter into our community to share the love of Jesus. Let us daily recommit ourselves to talking about our faith in Jesus with friends and family—even if that means picking up the phone to do so.

We will continue to worship together via live stream at 9:30am on Sundays. You can visit <https://www.mgcb.org/live> to see previous weeks' worship. We post updates each week on our Facebook page and elsewhere with the link to that week's live stream. Those without internet may dial 301.715.8592 (long distance charges may apply, depending on your phone plan) and enter 433 174 514# when prompted for a meeting ID. I also enjoy sharing some prayers or devotional thoughts with everyone on our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/MechanicGroveCOB/>) on Mondays and Wednesdays at around 12:00pm.

**Senior Pastor: Calvin Park**

**Youth & Young Adult Pastor: Jeff Keller**

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I want to thank those of you who have continued giving faithfully to the church during this time. While the church building remains closed. You may continue to give by sending your check to the church or by visiting <https://mgcb.breezechms.com/give/online>. There are a select group of volunteers coming in to count offerings regularly. Our amazing staff also continues to ensure communication and essential functions take place. If you do not need to make a trip to the church, consider avoiding doing so to help reduce the risk to staff and volunteers who have essential functions to fulfill.

### **Spring Council**

Our Spring Council meeting was scheduled for May 17. Indications at present are that Lancaster County will not be at the green stage of reopening by that date, which would allow us to meet in a large group exceeding 25. The Executive Committee recently had a conference call and one of the things discussed was alternative possibilities for Spring Council. In the end, Executive Committee felt that it was best to cancel Spring Council. We will still produce our regular council packet and make those available to the congregation. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct those to Derrick Kreider, Church Board Chair, or Dave Nichols, Church Moderator.

I remain your pastor during this time. If you need someone to talk to, please do not hesitate to give me a call. In addition, if you find yourself in the midst of hardship during this time, please let me know. We would love to be able to find ways to assist you. We all need help at times. Please do not allow pride to keep you from receiving help.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Calvin

Cell Phone: 240.370.6044