

Hello New Hope Family,

It's hard to believe our world, as we have known it, has been so radically changed because of this virus. Of course, first our prayers go out to those infected and impacted by the virus, in their bodies and in their finances. Please know, you as a church have truly been His light in the darkness, and His hope extended to those who are struggling in this season. So, I want to say a huge "Thank You!" for being His hands extended and His heart beating in this troubled world. Thank you for loving God, loving people and following Jesus.

As you are well aware, we have been sheltering safe for the past six weeks, therefore it has demanded we provide our weekly ministries via live-stream only. I am so proud of our team that has worked so diligently and professionally to provide each of you quality ministry during this time. They are the best!

On April 22nd, Gov. Stitt released new guidelines entitled Open Up and Recover Safely, that consisted of three phases in establishing the reopening of our state. Listed below are the guidelines listed that would directly impact the local church.

Phase 1:

Church buildings should remain closed for worship services until Sunday, May 3, 2020. Beginning on May 3, the first Sunday of May, our churches may resume

worshipping together so long as they adhere to social distancing and sanitation recommendations – but with the following guidelines as announced by Governor Kevin Stitt:

- Individuals over the age 65 or part of a vulnerable population are requested not to attend. They should continue to practice “safer at home.”
- Individuals that have underlying medical conditions are advised to remain at home
- Drinks and food should not be offered or served.
- Nurseries should remain closed.
- Families may sit (stand) together; however, others attending should maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet.
- Seating should be restricted to every other pew or even every third row of seats to maintain the proper space for social distancing.
- Maximum attendance should be determined according to the available square footage available for attendees.

I am aware that some of our local churches are choosing to reopen their doors May 3rd, 2020, adhering to the guidelines presented. I firmly believe every pastor and team must predetermine what’s in the best interest of their perspective churches concerning congregational health and safety measures. Some churches, you will hear of, will reopen their doors in June.

After much prayer with our leadership team and counsel from leaders in the Assemblies of God, as well as receiving counsel from medical professionals in our own church that love New Hope, we are more comfortable and feel it is wise that our reopening begin Sunday, May 17th, 2020 with multiple services or one large drive in service in which we can't wait to see you again! Our reasons are simply these.

- *First, it will hopefully allow the Corona virus curve to continue making its descent downward even more.

- *Second, it will allow us to move to Phase 2 in our state, which is the projected date of May 15th, 2020, if the criteria for the cases of Corona virus are met. Phase 2 will allow us to include ministry for our children.

- *We are a multigenerational church and do not want to alienate any age group, young or old. Every age is valuable at New Hope. A word I heard, that I believe was a word of wisdom from God was, "If it's not good for the whole church, it's not good for anyone of us." I feel passionate about this, as I believe being a multigenerational church is important and I want good for all.

Also please remember, that everything is subject to change. Thank you for being flexible and understanding.

On a practical side, our church family size will challenge us with all the guidelines. There are a lot of us. Pray that we do this right! Your safety is very important to me. I love you tremendously. Pray with us that as we once again

gather to worship together that we will see an influx of souls coming to Christ. May God take what Satan has meant for evil and turn it for His good!

Mega Blessings,
Pastor Anthony and Kristi Roe