

1 **Assembly Mennonite Church: Charting Our Path Ahead**

2 July 14, 2020

3 **Worship**

4 Worship Committee's current plan is to continue pre-recorded Zoom worship through August 2. On
5 August 9 we will have an in-person, physically distanced and safely masked baptism service in the church
6 parking lot. From August 16- September 27 we will meet in multiple pre-assigned outdoor neighborhood
7 house-church cluster groups for worship. Each week there will also be a Zoom option for those choosing
8 to physically distance or if weather is inclement. Each group will receive an order of worship and a script
9 for participants. These are intended to be participatory, intergenerational services based on the Shine
10 Sunday School curriculum. After that, we will likely gather remotely in live Zoom services with some adult
11 elective options.

12 **Christian Education**

13 There will not be traditional children's Sunday school during the next several months, and therefore we
14 have not recruited teachers for this time period. Instead, the Christian Education committee is
15 collaborating with Worship Committee to plan various elements of worship, including some that utilize
16 the Shine Sunday school curriculum. The JYF gathers monthly on Zoom or in person, and we have some
17 plans for how the K-5 age cohorts might connect periodically, depending how the school year unfolds.
18 And if we can do it safely, we'll have the annual fall garden party, Lantern festival, and Advent spiral.

19 **Small Groups**

20 During the pandemic, many small groups have been meeting more regularly via Zoom, and some are
21 starting to gather outside. In keeping with our goal of fostering a healthy small group system and enabling
22 participants to build relationships across the congregation, we will hold our annual Small Group Shuffle
23 beginning late summer. This is a time to join a new small group. If you have interest in a group with a
24 particular focus, let Karl Shelly know what that is. And look for announcements beginning in August.

25 **MYF**

26 Despite the challenges of these times, the MYF plans to continue meeting on Sunday mornings, outside
27 and physically distanced on blankets, and via zoom when necessary. We share "highs and lows" and often
28 have a discussion topic for the day. We also have occasional special events, while keeping safety a priority.
29 It is difficult to say at this point if/when/how some of the usual MYF activities will take place (live-in, drop-
30 ins, winter camp, etc). But we want to continue to foster MYF as an important place for our high-
31 schoolers to find faith community. We are open to any creative suggestions others may have.

32 **Congregational Meetings**

33 Leadership Group will be thinking creatively about how we can hold future congregational meetings in a
34 safe and accessible manner during the ongoing pandemic.

Questions

- 1) What excites you about these plans for our near future? What's missing that you'd like to see? What suggestions do you have for the post-September future?
- 2) Looking specifically at the house church cluster groups, what responses (affirmations, questions, concerns) do you have?