

# When will Liberty E-Free Church begin Gathering Together??

A Note from the Elders, April 30, 2020

It came as quite a surprise on Monday when the Governor announced that Iowa would be *“lifting the limits on spiritual and religious gatherings in all 99 counties”* beginning May 3rd. No Pastors or churches were expecting that to happen so quickly!! Since Monday, many people have been wondering when Liberty E-Free Church would once again gather together for worship. **The short answer is:** we would desire to gather for worship the instant we feel it is safe to do so ... we miss seeing everyone!! With that said, we do know that we will NOT be meeting this Sunday (May 3rd) and will continue with our online service. From that time on, the leadership will discern week-by-week when it will be best (and safe!) to regather together for corporate worship services. Stay tuned for future announcements!

**The longer explanation--** The Liberty E-Free Elders met in a special meeting on Tuesday (via *Zoom*) to discuss when we should once again gather for corporate worship. The desire amongst all of the Elders is: we would like to resume meeting together within the next few weeks. However, several things need to be communicated to clarify that statement:

1. We will continue to pay close attention to what is happening in the Marion county area regarding the coronavirus. The Elders will be in close communication with those “in the know” including the Health Department and other medical people. Pastor Dane will also be in contact with other E-Free Pastors to get their perspective on when a reasonable regathering date might be.
2. Once we do begin meeting, Liberty E-Free Church will observe (and insist!) that appropriate social distancing and hygiene practices are being carefully followed. It is necessary that we observe and respect the safety of those who attend. We currently have a team who is working through all of the details of how to make the worship experience as safe as possible. More specifics will be communicated as time gets closer.
3. Once we begin meeting, we will emphasize that gathering together for worship will be purely a personal & family option/decision. We only want people attending who feel comfortable doing so. In fact, we will probably encourage some people NOT to attend. We will continue to offer our online services for a few weeks after we officially regather for those who choose to stay home.
4. When we decide to regather, we will be offering a shorter worship service, and the auditorium will be set up in a way to offer maximum social distancing. Nursery, Children’s Church, and other ministries will not be offered for those first few weeks.
5. For the next several weeks we do not desire any groups (other than corporate worship) to meet at the building.

**In summary,** it would be our desire to regather for corporate worship services in the next few weeks. We do not have an exact Sunday selected at this point. We will communicate ahead of time (and re-communicate) when that time will be. Please continue to pray for our leadership, that the Holy Spirit would grant them good discernment in the days to come.