Church Family,

We have been longing for the opportunity to be together again. While there may be some disagreements amongst us related to COVID-19, we all can agree on the importance of the corporate worship gathering and Christ's example of how we are to love and protect one another.

After much thought and prayer, this document outlines **Phase 1 of Rich Pond's *Together Again* Plan.** We have implemented many new protocols for this season and are asking all of us to abide by the guidance outlined by the CDC during this phase. Even with our joint efforts in trying to protect everyone, we can in no way guarantee you will not be exposed to COVID-19 in our building. We encourage you to prayerfully consider what is best for you and your family in this season.

This plan is motivated out of love and for the protection of all as we begin to turn our hearts and minds to an in person gathering. We are very hopeful that as the number of COVID-19 cases in Warren County declines, we will soon enter Phase 2 of our ***Together Again*** plan. We ask that you continue to pray for Elders, Staff, and Deacons as we seek wisdom for the timing when we will truly all be able to be ***Together Again.***

This season has brought many changes in our lives, but it has not changed our path to become Christ followers. We continue to seek the Lord's will and live out our mission, to glorify God and make Disciples.

Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 (CSB)

RPBC Elders and Ministry Staff

We will continue to
WORSHIP WITH PASSION

On June 7th, we plan to have an in-person worship service at **9:00 AM in the Worship Center** and a second in-person worship service at **11:00 AM in the Family Center**.

We want to especially encourage those in the high risk category for complications from Covid-19, as defined by the CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html), to continue worshiping with us from home.

Our Worship Service will continue to be shared via Facebook Live but will be at a new time. As of June 7th, our service will stream on Facebook Live at 9:00 AM. It will be uploaded to YouTube later in the day.

Safety Precautions taken to prepare for Worship:

- We have implemented additional cleaning protocols campus wide. Cleaning and sanitizing will be ongoing before, during, and after the worship services.
- Certain areas have been closed and should not be used. (Preschool Hallway, Parlor Hallway, Office Wing, all other classrooms, water fountains, coffee stations, etc.).
- We have a detailed plan for entering/exiting the building. (See Graphic attached)
- Doors will be open as much as possible to limit touchpoints and provide better air flow.
- We have made adjustments to the length and order of our worship service.
- To help with social distancing, we have an adjusted seating layout for the Worship Center & Family Center along with clear markings & signage throughout the building.
- Nursery, Preschool, Children, and Student's Classes will not meet. Families are encouraged to worship together.
- We have removed all items from the back of the pews. For now, bulletins and other handouts will not be used.
- Offerings may be given online or at the collection boxes by the exits.
- Worship Choir and Shekinah will resume in a later phase.
- We will limit use of restrooms to 1 person at a time. Restrooms will be cleaned between each use.

Safety Precautions we should take for Worship:

- If you or anyone in your household has been sick within the past 48 hours, please delay your return and join us online. Please do not attend worship if you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. (fever, cough, sneezing or shortness of breath)

- Please take your temperature before leaving home. If it is above 100.4, please refrain from coming. If you forget or are unable to take your temperature at home, please have it checked by a volunteer at the Safety Station using an infrared touchless thermometer. If you have a fever over 100.4, you will be asked to worship at home.

- Designated entrances will open 30 minutes prior to the start of service. All other entrances will stay locked.

- Please enter/exit the building as indicated through the traffic flow plan attached and as illustrated in the video found on our website. Greeters and Ushers will help direct you on what to do. (See Graphic – Please note differences for the 9:00 and 11:00 services)

- Please plan to keep at least 6 ft social distance between your household and others the entire time you are in the building. Please refrain from shaking hands, hugging, etc.

- Due to the increased risks posed by larger group gatherings and by singing together, we strongly recommend that you wear a mask in the building. (The only exceptions to this will be for those on stage while they are on stage. We have allowed for additional distancing from these individuals when on stage. It is also recommended that children 2 and under not wear masks.) If you do not have a mask, a disposable one will be provided. If you are not comfortable wearing a mask, we ask that you wait to return during a later phase when masks are no longer recommended. The main concern is that those who may have the virus but are not yet showing symptoms, may transfer the virus to others.

- Before entering the worship areas, please sanitize your hands at our Safety Station.

- Please plan to sit where directed. If you have been self-quarantining with another individual or family, you may be seated together; otherwise, there needs to be 6 ft (as marked) between groups. Please do not move around the worship area after you are seated; wave or even call/text those attending before worship begins.

- Please limit the use of restrooms. If at all possible, avoid using a facility while on campus.

- We will not have an invitation or response call at the end of the service. If you would like counsel after a service, a staff member will meet with you near the piano where you worship. They will take you to another room that allows for safe distancing while counseling. You may also respond in the contact section at richpond.org.

We will continue to
NURTURE WITH INTENTION

In Phase 1, all adult Sunday School Classes, Community Groups, Children and Student Ministries will continue meeting and ministering via online methods. Although these groups and ministries look different in this season, there are many opportunities for us to belong and to learn. If you would like more information on these ministries, contact the staff person indicated.

Community Groups/Sunday School	Andrew Head	Andrew@richpond.org
Children's Ministries	Susan May	Susan@richpond.org
Student Ministries	Drew Krutza	Drew@richpond.org
College Ministries	Becca Keen	Becca@richpond.org

Monday/Friday Devotions, as well as Wednesday Night Bible Study, will continue to be shared online.

Our Prayer Warrior Email is sent out each Monday and Thursday afternoon with updates on specific prayer needs for our church body.

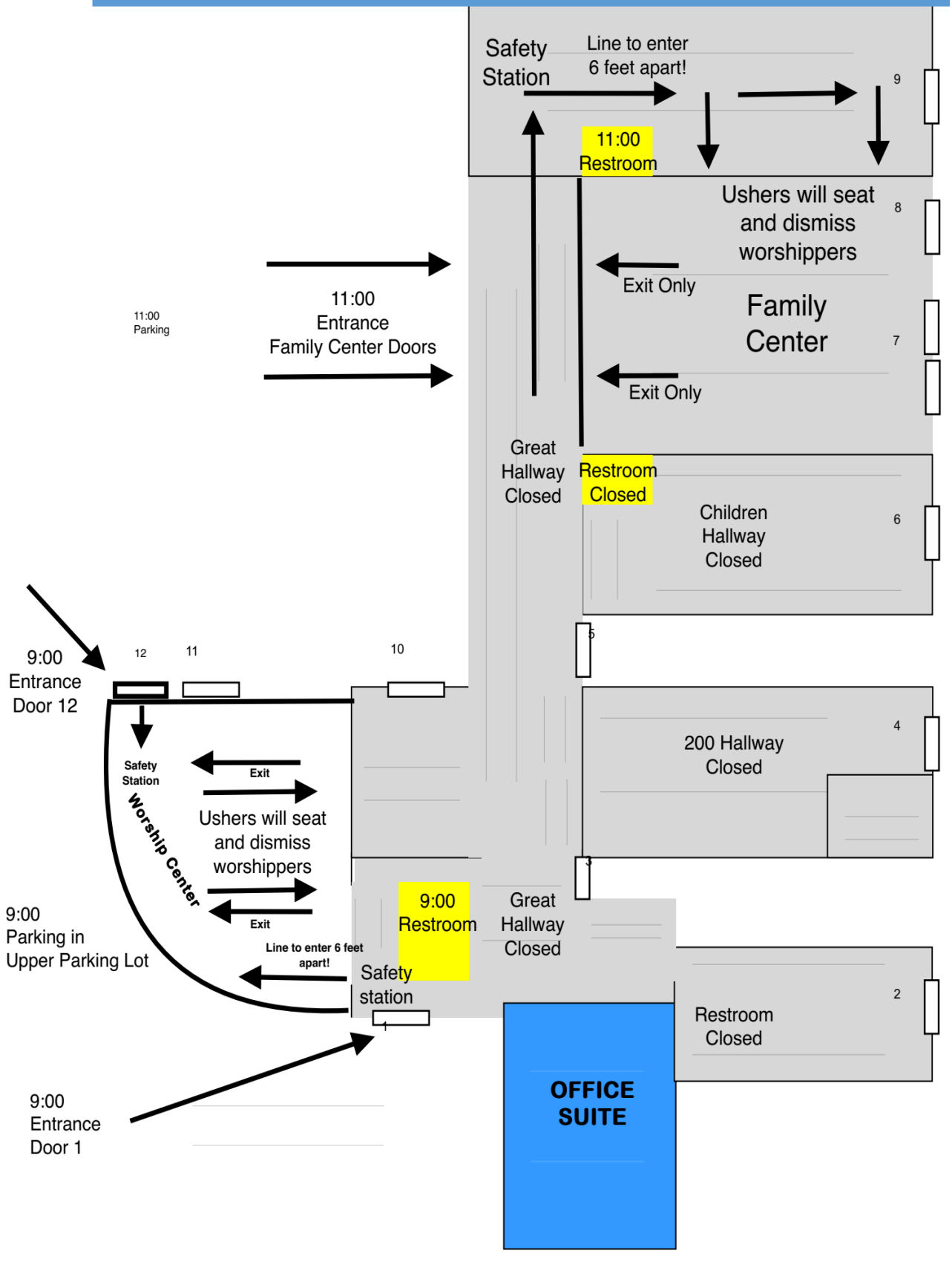
RightNow Media is accessible to all Rich Pond attenders. There are numerous ways to utilize it for continued learning or family discipleship. Email andrew@richpond.org for information on access.

If you are needing counsel, our pastors and ministry staff are still available and want to help. To request counsel or prayer, go to www.richpond.org/prayer-request-counsel and fill out form.

We will continue to
EVANGELIZE WITH CONVICTION

We will continue to support the work of RPBC Mission Partners in North America and around the globe by lifting them regularly in prayer and with other assistance when possible.

We will continue to pray and pursue Gospel conversations with our "One". We will pray and look for opportunities to connect with those in our neighborhood or work circles.

Through our regular giving to the Cooperative Program, we are supporting the work of the KBC, NAMB, and IMB. As a church, we also continue to partner with other local ministries (Refuge BG, Hope House, etc.) to serve those in need in our community. If you would like to know more about how to support missions, contact Brent Fields at brent@richpond.org.

Rich Pond Baptist Church Entry to Worship