



Dear EPC Family and Friends ~

Session met for our regular stated meeting on Monday, April 13, and took action on the next steps for EPC's *Measures of Care*. With local COVID numbers improving, warmer weather returning, and vaccines increasingly available to portions of our congregation, we celebrate the new life of this Easter season and look with joy to begin **outdoor worship services at West Campus on May 2, 2021** alongside our ongoing online worship services.

Services will remain online only for the duration of April 2021 to allow Worship Committee and Property Committee to get West spruced up and ready for us. If you would like to help, many hands make light work. Contact Amanda Gutierrez or Ken Weaver to see how you can be part of the crew welcoming our church family back together after a long Lenten winter.

Services from May 2 – June 13, 2021, will mirror our previous outdoor worship at West. **Worship will begin at 9:30am** and follow the shortened format that includes responsive readings and prayers but no congregational singing. Communion will be celebrated on May 2, and you are invited to bring your own elements from home (bread/cookie and juice) or elements will be available before worship (individually packaged) for you to pick up and have ready at your seat. All other current *Measures of Care* will remain in place during our outdoor services. As in the Summer/Fall, we ask that you sit within your family group, wear your mask properly, maintain 6' social distancing, etc. Please be mindful that even if you have been fully vaccinated, many in our church family have not yet, and our youngest members (children and youth ages 16 & under) cannot be. We continue our commitment to love and care for each other and our community by showing grace and love toward all. The West Campus sanctuary remains *Measures of Care* compliant and available in the event of inclement Spring weather.

Session will once again take a careful and prayerful look at local COVID numbers, county and state recommendations, the influence of variant strains on Lyon County, and the needs of our community at our June 14 meeting. We hope to be able to discuss resumption of church van service, moving indoors, adding missing portions of the liturgy back into our worship, returning Downtown, and more as conditions allow.

We are keenly aware that this has been a hard season for our congregation, but we can say with full assurance that through it all we have been, are, and will continue to be Christ's church at work in the world.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning!

~Psalm 31:5b

Elders will be calling each member of the EPC family over the next few days to check-in, and, as always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Session elders or Pastor Phyl with questions, concerns, or needs.

*Yours in Christ,
Emporia Presbyterian Church Session*