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Greetings New Horizon community,

I know that many of you are anxious to “get back” to worship at the church facility. We long to return to some form of “normal”. The truth is we will have to get used to a new reality and pattern of life as a church community. Church leadership, staff and I want to share with you some of our thoughts for going forward.

Please know that we have gotten a lot of extremely helpful information from our denomination through our Bishop, District Superintendent and Annual Conference leadership. We are still in a mandate of no gathering for worship through June 15. After that there are guidelines for making the best decisions for our context and area. Please understand our Bishop and Conference cover the whole state of Florida and things are quite different across our large state. We all know that SE Florida is always different.

To help us make decisions we asked you to let us know your feelings through a survey that was recently sent out. Thank you to all who responded, and we did have a significant number of you share your voice. A few things were noticeably clear from the survey. The vast majority of our congregation is ready to be patient and relaunch slowly and safely. We will be watching for markers from our surrounding community and we will take every safety precaution possible but that will take time to put into place.

We are considering many options for worship so that we can practice social distancing and be safe. One thing for sure is that we will continue with the online worship experience permanently. (Another item made clear in the survey responses.) This means our worship setting will also be a place for filming. One of many changes we will see and feel on the campus.

Naturally, we cannot just jump back into things quickly and just do what we did before. There will be a phasing in of community life on campus. Attached is our Relaunch Plan that addresses the general process we foresee. There are no dates or firm details yet. As we move forward you will get more information.

You are hopefully asking what you can do now.

Continue to worship online via YouTube or Facebook. All information is on our website and please be sure the office has your best email address.

Fellowship Cell - This is a smaller group you are connected with through the church: A Sunday school class, study group, prayer group, folks you sit with, friends you serve with.

Form or be sure to be part of a fellowship cell. Be sure to check in with each other weekly and perhaps even worship at the same time and then follow up with each other.

Give – Use the online giving tools and respond generously as you are able and led by the Spirit. The general work of the church continues. The Mission building is still going up. There are costs to new and expanding technologies to bring worship online.

Serve - Serve in some way. Donate and/or serve with our daily food distribution. The Nourishing Lives ministry of New Horizon has expanded and become a beacon of hope for our community. Plus, there are many other ways to serve.

Pray! - Then pray some more!

Our guiding value in this relaunch process is the first general rule of the United Methodist church: **Do No Harm**. This theme will guide us in the days ahead.

Thank you for all you do and share with our wonderful community of faith. New Horizon is a great church and a recognized part of the area in which we live. Please contact the church office if you need any other information or ways you can give and serve.

Blessings,  
Pastor Rafe