As Castine prepares to reopen its building for ministry, several factors guide the decision-making process. First, the need for our ministry to reopen and minimize the risk of increased infection and harm to our church and community. Second, the Bible’s challenge to honor those in authority over us and always place God in first place in decision making. Third, the need to represent Jesus well to our neighbors who look to Castine for an example of Jesus.

To account for each factor and reopen for ministry, Castine relies on directives from our governor Mike DeWine to help with medical and community requirements to be “good neighbors” to our area of Ohio and avoid unnecessary risk and harm from this pandemic. In addition, this plan includes guidance from Christian Law Association, Mason, Ohio, from their “Covid-19 Suggested Church Reopening Guideline.” Castine also strives to follow God’s instructions to honor those in authority over us by complying with best practices for Castine based on Mr. DeWine’s guidance. Finally, Castine does not only consider the needs of our church family but also the example we are to our community and surrounding ministries.

With these guiding principles, Castine presents this reopening document. The document explains there are three phases; phase one -- only a 10:45 worship service with no additional ministry, including the nursery, children’s church, or any adult or youth Sunday school. At the time of this policy, there is no set timeframe for moving from phase one to phase two or three.

In phase two -- there is only a 10:45 worship service, nursery, and children’s church (with similar guidelines as phase one. Then, in phase three -- a complete ministry schedule.

Phase One and Two Details

High-risk individuals should remain home during phase one and continue to use live-stream options for Sunday services. We encourage anyone having hesitation to avoid attending Castine Church. You remain an important part of our church family and we encourage you to join our live-stream at 10:45 on Sunday morning. Also, remain connected by Castine Connect and Castine Church Facebook. Please contact the church office with questions or concerns at 937-500-0406.

Items 1-2 are direct quotes from the Christian Law Association (CLA) Guidelines for Church Reopening.
1. Medical experts find those at highest risk for life-threatening illness from COVID-19 are:
   1.1. People 65 years and older;
   1.2. People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility; and
   1.3. People of all ages with underlying medical conditions.

2. Underlying medical conditions include, but are not limited to:
   2.1. People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma;
   2.2. People who have serious heart conditions;
   2.3. People who are immunocompromised (Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications);
   2.4. People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher); or
   2.5. People with diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and/or liver disease.

3. Anyone who has been in contact with an infected person or who is exhibiting the following symptoms that have been associated with COVID-19 SHOULD NOT ATTEND ANY MINISTRY EVENT.
   3.1. Fever;
   3.2. Cough;
   3.3. Shortness of breath;
   3.4. Chills;
   3.5. Repeated shaking;
   3.6. Muscle pain;
   3.7. Headache;
   3.8. Sore throat; or
3.9. New loss of taste or smell or other neurological issues.

4. Castine will comply with governmental regulations for social distancing.

4.1. There will be signage, markers and verbal guidance to maintain the proper social distancing in both the church sanctuary and life center. **Once we reach full capacity under the new requirements**, (this includes our sanctuary and life center) we will no longer admit people into the service.

4.2. While at service, families should enter, sit, stand, and exit as a group. No one should wander away from their family group.

4.3. Distancing should be kept in all directions – front, back, left, and right.

4.4. Each family group should remain at least six feet away in all directions from other attending family groups.

4.5. All physical contact should be avoided (handshakes, hugs, etc.).

4.6. Dismissal will be by sections and rows to ensure no unnecessary crowding or congregating at the exits.

4.7. Please avoid unnecessary crowding in the parking area. People should promptly return home and refrain from fellowshipping at the end of the service.

4.8. Please wear a mask if desired and Castine will have some extra masks at entry points for those who may not have one.

4.9. Anyone developing any symptoms mentioned in **SECTION 3** should leave the site or quarantine in a personal car until able to leave the site.

4.10. There will be singular entry and exits points maintaining one-way traffic flow.

4.11. There will be a **person limit to restroom facilities** - - all are encouraged to - - use the restroom before arriving and avoid use if possible.

*Castine leadership is sensitive to the desire to return to a “normal” ministry experience. Always considering the three guiding principles mentioned above, we desire the same result as do you. Please grant us patience as we move toward our common goal.*