

On May 22, 2020, our President announced the church was an “essential” organization and encouraged churches to open right away for services. As we are grateful and excited to hear our President make these comments and are looking forward to gathering again, we also realize that there is still a virus out there that is affecting millions of lives.

We are also grateful to see our Governor respond positively towards our President’s remarks and has revised his plan to allow churches to gather even during our phase 1. The emphasis was to continue the livestream, but if you can’t and must, then...

In response to both our President and our Governor, on June 1st, we will resume our gatherings for those who, for whatever reason they have, NEED to be there. We recognize and realize that many in our church are not ready to return to gathering at this time, and we both honor and respect that decision. As our Governor has emphasized, this is for those that NEED to be here.

As we gather, we will be taking reasonable steps to protect those who are most vulnerable in our congregation and to the best of our ability observe the guidelines of the CDC for social distancing. This will certainly create difficulties and challenges, but approaching this situation with wisdom and prudence and being led by the Holy Spirit are absolute essentials.

Plan:

We will be opening our doors for meetings and services on June 1. These will all look a bit different as we observe the CDC guidelines of social distancing within reason.

Phased approach to opening: This will be similar to our government's approach, however, not perfectly coordinated with their timeline. For our sake, we will begin June 1 with our “phase 1”. During this time, we will continue both our livestream of Sunday and Wednesday services, as well as keep all meetings available via zoom.

Phase 1: Open up at 25% capacity, or less than 50 people

Phase 2: 50% capacity, or less than 75 people

Phase 3: 100% capacity

WARNING!!!!

- We highly recommend that if you fall within the “High-Risk” category, that you stay home and enjoy our service from the livestream
 - Each individual that shows up for our service needs to know and understand the following:
 - Even though we will be practicing social distancing, we cannot guarantee that you will be protected from this virus. This may result in sickness, and in some cases, even death. Your decision to come and gather is one that we will not pressure you into, and even more, it needs to be made not based on politics nor social reasons, but it needs to be a decision that is made spiritually by seeking the Lord. As pastors we love our church and those who are a part of our body and desire to see no one lose their life because of this virus, or any reason at all. Our commitment is to the Lord, and because of that, we commit what we do out of love for the body.
- Our Gathering together is not replacing any livestream or zoom meetings that are available
- If you do not feel comfortable gathering at this time, whether for health reasons or conscience sake, there is no shame or condemnation. We will continue to minister to everyone, wherever they may decide to worship from!!

Social Distancing Guidelines:

Larger gathering services:

- Before you come, please check your temperature at home and use the restroom before you leave home to limit the use of our restroom facilities
 - If you are sick or not feeling well, do not come to church. If you do not look well and exhibit signs of illness, you will be asked to leave.
 - If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 2 weeks, do not come to church.
 - If you become ill after attending a service, please inform either Pastor Rob or Pastor Micah as soon as possible. If you test positive for COVID-19 after attending a service, let the pastors know immediately.
 - We will be taking a picture during each service to identify who is in the building and where you are seated. This is to help us identify who you were seated near so that if any person does test positive, we can inform those in their area. This information will not be shared with anyone but our church leadership and those whom we believe may have potentially had interaction with a person positive for COVID-19.
 - Every person will be required to wear a mask
 - If you do not have a face covering, one will be provided for you. One of our members has made cloth, re-usable face coverings that are washable for those who need one. Once these are gone, we have ordered 500 masks that we will hand out for those who need one.
- Each person/family will be seated by an usher to an available seat.
 - Every other row of pews will be blocked off to keep social distancing
 - Only 2 families per pew will be seated, one on each side
 - If a family has more than 2 people, then they will be provided with their own pew

- Please, do not show up more than 20 minutes early for the service
 - If you would like to socialize, we ask that you purpose to socialize outside before and after service.
- Doors will be propped open before and after service to limit contact with these points
 - During this time, we will only have the main entrance upstairs unlocked and available for people to come through. As always, all exits will be available in case of an emergency or fire, but the doors to the fireside room and downstairs will remain closed and locked through phase 1.
- Please bring your own water or coffee to drink during service, or your own snack if you know you will be hungry before service ends.
- Limit one person in the restroom at a time.
 - We will be providing disinfecting wipes for people to use to disinfect any surface they touch immediately after use.
- Communion will not be taken during our services right now.
 - We will continue to provide a communion message via our website that will be available for you to partake with your family at home.

Children's Ministry: Sunday Only

- Phase 1: Closed
 - During phase 1, children will be asked to sit with their parents.
 - Our cry room balcony will be available for Nursing mother's and their babies only.
 - We will open up our nursery downstairs for mother's to take their children if they are having trouble in service. A livestream of the service will be provided as children will need to be supervised by their parents. No nursery worker available
- Phase 2: One classroom, school-house style children's Sunday school
 - All children from preschool to 5th grade will be in one classroom. They will have a lesson and then go outside to play.

- Nursery will remain open for parent's to watch their own children with a livestream available
- Phase 3: same as phase 2
 - We aren't sure exactly when this will be, however, we are planning that at least through the summer, this is what our children's ministry will look like.

Worship Ministry:

- Phase 1: A single person will lead worship
 - If we have a married couple, then this is the only time we will extend this rule
- Phase 2: Up to 2 people on stage
 - This can be any combination of a leader, a vocalist, drummer/percussion
- Phase 3: Full worship team

Small Groups:

- Small group meetings at the church will need to follow the same social distancing guidelines as our larger gatherings
 - Face coverings
 - Hand sanitation
 - Bathroom use
 - For men's/women's group, you may open both bathrooms to be used, but only 1 person at a time in each. Please sanitize as explained before
- Every smaller group who has been utilizing zoom to meet **MUST** continue allowing people to join via zoom.
- Our smaller group meetings will be welcome to either meet outside in the Amphitheater or in the fireside room
 - If meeting inside, one entrance needs to be designated and clearly marked for attendees to go through.
 - Chairs need to be arranged to keep 6' between each participant
 - If meeting outside, same social distancing guidelines still apply

Food and Beverage:

- Please bring your own food or drink to enjoy during the meeting!!
 - If food or beverages are provided, the group must follow the following guidelines in order to serve:
 - 1 person is to be designated as the “server.”
 - Person must wear a mask and gloves to serve
 - Person will be responsible to dispense and serve any beverage that needs to be poured by:
 - Personally grabbing a disposable cup
 - Pouring the beverage
 - Handing the beverage to the person asking
 - If cream and sugar are wanted, then this person is to ask how many of each and pick them from their storage and directly hand to person asking
 - Same applies for tea bags as well
 - Person will be responsible for handing food to any person asking
 - This person may be a separate server, so long as each person remains at their dedicated “station” and follows the same standards as the person serving beverages
 - No homemade food will be allowed to share
 - Any food that is shared with others must be pre-packaged and leftovers will either be taken home by person who brought it or disposed of in the garbage
 - This applies to any package that is opened. No opened package is to be reused.

Cleaning and sanitizing:

- Each gathering will be responsible to sanitize and clean before and after every meeting:
 - Places of high traffic contact must be sanitized
 - Door Handles
 - Bathroom taps
 - Toilet handles
 - Hard surfaces (i.e. wood on pews)
 - Toys in the balcony and nursery
- Church will be routinely cleaned and sanitized
- When in doubt... SANITIZE!!
- Sanitizer will be readily available

Safety and Security Measures:

- In case of an outbreak within our gatherings:
 - Definition of outbreak:
 - Phase 1: 10 people at a single gathering
 - Phase 2-3: 15 people within a single gathering
 - These numbers do not confirm whether the person contracted the virus at the church, but attended a meeting within 2 weeks of testing positive.
 - In the case of an outbreak, we will cancel all meetings for a 3 week period, but will resume livestream and zoom meetings as we have during the stay at home orders.
 - Once the 3 weeks has ended, we will resume our meetings at phase 1 regardless of the phase we were currently in.
- If you attend a service or gathering during the week and test positive for COVID-19, it is essential that you let us know ASAP!! The more honest we are with each other, the better we can protect those who are most vulnerable