

The Next Phase of our COVID-19 Response Plan (beginning Sunday, October 4)

Preface

We are so thankful to our God for the many blessings he has given us in the midst of this pandemic. We have been blessed with gorgeous weather for outdoor services, a sizable parking lot to allow for many worshippers, technology to provide meaningful worship for those who are more comfortable worshipping at home, and a church family that is willing to be flexible as we face these challenges together.

As we approach the Fall and Winter months, we are preparing to implement a new set of protocols for our worship. Our greatest desire is to provide worship opportunities that are safe, compassionate, and meaningful.

We are very thankful for the diligent research and advice from our COVID-19 Response Team. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a developing situation, with new research being released at breakneck speed. As more facts emerge and new guidelines are provided, we ask our congregation to be flexible as we continue to tweak and improve our safety guidelines. We will all have to be patient with each other as we worship together in new ways.

Sunday Worship Procedures

- 1) We will continue to worship on Sundays beginning at 9:30am.
- 2) Masks are required at all times in the church building.
 - a) Pastors will be allowed to remove their masks once they are behind the pulpit.
 - b) Worship leaders will be allowed to remove their masks once they are positioned in designated socially distant spots.
 - c) Other readers or prayer leaders may remove their masks to perform their tasks once they are behind the lectern.
 - d) Masks will be worn by all pastors, worship leaders, readers, and prayer leaders when they are not performing their duties.
- 3) We will implement several worship spaces.
 - a) The Sanctuary (including the Balcony) will be our main worship space, from which the pastors and worship team will lead the service. Singing and congregational responses will be permitted in the Sanctuary.
Sanctuary Capacity: 100 people
 - b) The Activity Center will be our secondary worship space, from which congregation members will be able to watch the service live on a large screen. For those uncomfortable with worshipping in a space that allows singing, singing and congregational readings will NOT be permitted in the Activity Center.
Activity Center Capacity: TBD
 - c) The Chapel, Loft, and Genesis Room will also be set up for overflow seating as needed. Singing and congregational response will be allowed/disallowed as needed.
Chapel Capacity: 18 people
Loft Capacity: TBD
Genesis Room Capacity: TBD
- 4) Social distancing will be practiced.
 - a) In spaces where singing and congregational responses are allowed, there will be marked spots for 10 feet of social distancing. This is in line with careful research about masked singing. As more research is done, the distance may be increased without warning.
 - b) In spaces where singing and congregational responses are not allowed, there will be marked spots for 6 feet of social distancing, in line with recommended guidelines.
- 5) Entrance and Exit procedures will be carefully followed

- a) Specific doors will be designated for each particular worship areas. No other doors may be used by congregation members.
 - i) The East-facing doors at the front of the church will all be entrance-points for those worshipping in the Sanctuary.
 - ii) The North-facing doors between the Daycare and the Activity Center (marked "Activity Center") will be the entrance-point for those worshipping in the Activity Center.
 - iii) Other doors will be designated entrance-points for overflow spaces as needed.
- b) Entrance protocols will be followed
 - i) Each worshipper will be met at the entrance point by a trained volunteer.
 - ii) Hand sanitizing stations will be available at each entrance-point.
 - iii) Coats and other winter gear must remain on your person. You may remove them once you reach your seat. No coat racks will be utilized.
 - iv) An usher will meet you at the entrance to your chosen worship space and escort you to a seat. All worship spaces will be filled from front to back to limit contact with others. Please respect the ushers and sit where assigned.
- c) Exit procedures will be followed
 - i) All worship spaces will be dismissed by ushers from back to front to limit contact with others. Please be patient and wait for an usher to dismiss you.
 - ii) Worshippers are asked to not congregate in common spaces. Please exit the building through the door through which you entered.
- 6) Fellowship opportunities will be encouraged.
 - a) Worshippers are encouraged to use outdoor spaces to greet each other in safe ways
 - b) The Fellowship Hall will be marked with seating areas that may be used for safe visiting and greeting.
 - i) Please respect the volunteer attendants who will be on hand to encourage safety and social distancing.
 - ii) Spaces are first-come, first-serve, and once capacity is reached, you may be asked to return to your vehicles.
 - iii) No food or drink will be served at this time.
 - c) Our Fellowship Planning and Events Committee (F-PEC) will continue to develop opportunities to encourage church community.
- 7) Outdoor worship will still be attempted as the weather permits.
- 8) The Live Stream will remain available for all worshippers who are more comfortable worshipping from home.

Sunday Non-Worship Procedures

- 1) Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 27. Classes will be divided into Preschool, Kindergarten-2nd Grade, and 3rd-5th Grade. Sunday School singing will take place during the worship service. Classes will meet following the service for 15 minutes to learn a Bible Lesson and receive a take-home activity.
- 2) Nursery will not be offered at this time. The COVID-19 Response Team is working on protocols for nursery.

Non-Sunday Building Use Procedures

- 1) The church building may be used during the week for meetings, Bible Studies, Fellowship Groups, and other events.
- 2) Please contact the church office to schedule.

All church spaces will continue to be carefully cleaned and disinfected each week.