

June 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that we will resume in-person options for worship. On the recommendation of our Reopening Taskforce, we will hold two outdoor services each Sunday, one at 8:30am and one at 10:00am, starting June 6. I commend the work of our Reopening Taskforce. They have worked hard to study and apply the guidelines from the Center for Disease Control, the Florida Surgeon General's Office, and denominational guidelines to offer some in-person options with reduced risk. So far, our community has been spared from the effects of the virus with only two cases in Gulf Country. On Friday, the State of Florida moves to Phase 2 in loosening the restrictions caused by the coronavirus. However, this pandemic is not over. In fact, some epidemiologists believe that we have more difficult days to come, so it is critical that we reopen with extra caution and care for our members and community. We ask that if you decide to be a part of in-person worship that you make it the safest public interaction of your week.

1. The church, in compliance with CDC recommendations, encourages people who are 65 or older and/or with health vulnerabilities to stay home and participate via Facebook Live. Please do not feel pressure to attend in person. We support your decision to participate from home.
2. All of our church's in-person worship offerings through June and likely beyond will be outdoors. Epidemiologists tell us that particular types of circulation and climate can reduce the spread of this disease. The church building will be closed. We ask people to use the restroom before they come, bring water, bring hand sanitizer, and dress comfortably for our hot and humid climate. Right now, we do not have a rain plan, and would recommend everyone watching online in the event of inclement weather.
3. We are asking that everyone wear a mask as you gather. The Florida Surgeon General has said that this is the number one thing we can do to reduce spread as the state reopens. Masks will be required for seating on the Rotunda and is recommended for the church yard.
4. Our radio transmitter will be installed by the end of June. If you listen from your car radio, you need to have your window up for the service. If you listen from your golf cart, your front shield needs to be up. Boaters are also welcome.
5. The services will be of shorter (30-45 minutes), in order to reduce contact duration.
6. The church needs a cell phone number for each worshiper. A host will ensure that we have contact information for you for the purpose of contact tracing.
7. We will not, at this point, be doing congregation singing, because of the respiratory nature of the virus. Humming is encouraged.
8. We will be enforcing strict social distancing (family units and individuals must be spaced at least 6 feet apart) and no personal contact like passing the offering plate, shaking hands, or passing the peace will take place.
9. We will have chairs available on the Rotunda and a host to guide you to a seat. We will be sanitizing these chairs between services. If you wish to gather on the church lawn, we ask that you bring your own chair.
10. We recommend wearing masks traveling to and from your seat. The staff and others who enter buildings must have masks. All persons must be ready for a no-contact temperature check upon arrival.
11. If you have been out of the area or near a person diagnosed with COVID-19, we ask that you stay home for two Sundays.
12. There will not be any nursery or other children and youth gatherings at this time. We ask that families sit together and help their children practice social distancing.
13. As the nature of the pandemic changes, we will change with it. We ask that you watch your e-mail and Facebook for any changes or cancellations. If there is an outbreak in the area or if a person who attended a service is subsequently diagnosed with Covid-19, we will move back to no in-person services for at least three Sundays.

Peace of Christ,



Geoffrey



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