

ON-CAMPUS WORSHIP SERVICES

- BEGINNING JULY 18/19 -

(Last Updated July 29, 2020)

After over a month of praying, planning, and strategizing, we are excited to announce that we will resume our on-campus weekend services beginning the weekend of July 18/19. We understand that this decision to re-open may raise some questions, so we've transparently laid out our reasoning and strategy below.

WHY ARE WE RE-OPENING?

We know from God's Word that He created us to live in community as we love Him and love each other, which is why Hebrews 10:25 reminds us to, "Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Our flock is suffering as we come to grips with the international pandemic while also being estranged from the encouragement of our church family for an extended period of time. Although it would be easier to continue to offer church online only, we strongly believe that the right thing to do is to resume our regular, weekly worship services on campus.

WHY ARE WE RE-OPENING NOW?

As more time has passed and additional scientific data has become available, we have a clearer picture of the risk level involved. We believe it has reached a low enough level to be reasonably 'safe' to resume meeting.

For more information regarding the science behind our assessment, we recommend the following video clip out of Stanford University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZqGSnVt8c8&feature=youtu.be>.

HOW DO WE DEFINE 'SAFE'?

We define 'safe' as when it is at least as safe as driving your car to work.

The current data indicates that if you are under 65 and have no metabolic disorders, you are 2x as likely to die in a car accident than you are from COVID-19. If you are under 18 and in good health, you are 128x more likely to die from a car accident than COVID-19.

WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR RE-OPENING? WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

We have implemented the following campus-wide standards (these are subject to modification as the data continues to emerge):

- Temperature checks upon entry. Temps < 100.4 are welcome to come in!
- Restaurant-standard food service.
- Discontinuing community water dispensers.
- Increased space between chairs to accommodate social distancing.
- Increased sanitizing stations and disinfecting procedures.
- UV sanitation in the children's classrooms.
- Air purifiers installed in AC units all over campus that kill bacteria, viruses, and mold in airborne particles.



We will have multiple venues across campus that will reflect different options for different comfort levels and health risks:

- Main Auditorium
- Lobby seating
- Outdoor seating
- A modified viewing experience in the Studio with greater restrictions and safety precautions (i.e. everyone will be masked, no food/beverages, strict social distancing, etc.).

WHAT ABOUT MASKS?

You can expect to see our staff/volunteers wearing masks while serving when social distancing is not possible. For those who are not serving in a volunteer capacity, we invite you to follow your own conscience.

We are persuaded to follow the spirit of the Apostle Paul who says, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." Our goal regarding masks is to be consistent with community standards, therefore we will follow the model of local restaurants and retail experiences so that we don't create a counter-productive deviation from the cultural norm for the sake of the Gospel.

While we recognize that the effectiveness of mask usage is widely debated due to conflicting government recommendations, we prefer to re-open under these precautions rather than delay re-opening any longer. We strongly believe that the benefit to our spiritual life significantly outweighs the inconvenience of wearing a mask at this time.

We will re-evaluate our decision on mask usage weekly as additional data becomes available.

Our desire is to bring glory to God by coming together and fulfilling the greatest commandment to love Him with our whole heart and love our neighbor as ourselves. This will require tolerance, understanding and grace. And it's our prayer that it will result in greater unity and love for one another and that we won't be divided over a piece of cloth.

WHAT ABOUT MY KIDS?

We will have age-level programming for children ages 0-5th grade. Our junior high and high school students are encouraged to attend and participate in the adult services during the weekend. Junior high and high school ministries are taking place midweek.

WHAT IF I'M NOT READY OR ABLE TO RETURN TO CAMPUS?

We never want anyone to compromise either their conscience or their own safety. If you are at-risk (over the age of 65, have a co-morbidity or metabolic dysfunction), we invite you to continue to enjoy our services online. We will continue to provide a high-quality online experience because we know that not everyone will be ready or able to return to campus at the same time.



A FINAL THOUGHT FROM PK

"Finally, as a church family, we understand that one of the most important things we can do in our lives is have a regular time where we love God and each other through congregational worship. The last 4-5 months of not being together has further strengthened this conviction and created a deep hunger in the hearts of our church family. So as we reconvene, we plead with you to not allow secondary issues to be sources of division and rancor but rise above it and show each other grace, kindness, acceptance, and care. God loves us with an everlasting love and we want to enjoy that together and share it with a world that is lost and spinning out of control right now. We will choose to demonstrate our love for one another just as Jesus demonstrated His love when He washed His disciples feet—with an attitude of humility, service and sincerity. I can't wait to see you soon!"

