



# Our Plan for Returning to Church

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# Introduction

We are excited to announce our plans for resuming public worship services! In the following pages, we have provided details regarding the schedule, policies, restrictions, and changes you will see as we resume our public gatherings. While we are grateful for the technologies that have allowed us to stay connected over the past couple of months, we are looking forward to being able to fully reflect the model God's Word gives for the Church as we assemble together. (church: from Greek ekklesia meaning called out assembly)

With a recognition of our responsibility to the people of God, our command from God, and our Constitutional rights as Americans, we feel a stirring from God to prepare adequately and safely for the slow and safe return to worship. We have sought legal and medical counsel, as well as consultation with our elected officials in making this plan. Mostly, we are sensitive to the leading of the Lord in the process.

We understand that there are churches that will begin to meet sooner than we are, but we need to remember that the spread of the virus and the public perception is different in many areas of our country. When we are called to reach the world with the message of the Gospel, we must realize that we can very easily jeopardize our opportunity to be heard if we give the perception that we have disregarded all cautions and concerns of our community in which and to whom we minister. This is what Scripture means when It says that we must be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves".

Please be sure to study and prepare for the issue in context of our circumstances. It is imperative that we return with proper patience, understanding, and biblical conviction. Church members and workers are urged to read this document in order to participate in upcoming services.

We all desire safety as instructed by government leaders (Romans 13), to show respect to and submit to the authority of those government leaders within their realm of jurisdiction (Titus 3:1-5), and we desire to obey the command of Scripture to assemble and worship (Hebrews 10:25).

We believe church is essential! We believe the Church should be the example to the world around us in every area. Let us show them what resuming public gathering should be like. Let's work together to make a safe and successful regathering of the Church for the glory of God and with a right testimony to those who have not yet trusted Christ as Saviour.

— Phillip Jones, Pastor

**Note:** This plan is a work in progress and is subject to change in the days and weeks to come.



# Precautions



# Precautions

We love each and every member of our church family and recognize your importance to this body of Christ followers. It is our desire to be in close fellowship with everyone as much as possible. Everyone is important and valued.

Because of the place each of you holds in our hearts and church family, recognizing the dangers related to COVID-19, we are asking all members and guests age 65 and older and members and guests of all ages who have underlying health conditions such as breathing conditions, cancer treatments, suppressed immune systems, etc, to please stay home and continue worshipping via livestream during Phase 1 of our return.

It may be necessary for those folks to stay away from “crowds” longer than Phase 1, however, we must start with this safety measure.

## Who Is at Risk?

Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People 65 years and older
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if their condition is not well controlled, including:
  - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - People who have serious heart conditions
  - People who are immunocompromised
  - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
  - People with diabetes
  - People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
  - People with liver disease

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.

If we become aware that someone who has been in a service becomes ill, we will follow these procedures:

- We will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed. Persons should stay at home for at least seven days after symptoms started AND three days after symptoms are improved and fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- We will contact local health officials.

## Do

- ✓ Wear a mask (ages 5 and up)
- ✓ Wash your hands before and after services
- ✓ Stay six feet from others
- ✓ Cover coughs or sneezes
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer frequently
- ✓ Be willing to have your temperature taken

## Don't

- ✗ Shake hands
- ✗ Hug others
- ✗ Come if you are sick
- ✗ Touch your face, nose, and mouth
- ✗ Leave trash in the auditorium
- ✗ Let worry control you

# Service Schedule



# Schedule of Our Services

Please familiarize yourself with these phases, learn the phase schedule, and we will communicate as clearly and consistently as possible. In the event of resurgence of COVID-19, or another pandemic, we will use similar philosophy going forward.

Finally, we will need to have at least two Sunday morning services at least initially.

## Phase 1 — June 14, 2020

### *Sunday Morning Service Schedule*

We are conducting multiple services in order to meet the guidelines to reduce the seating in the auditorium and in order to maintain social distancing.

#### *Service Times—10:30 am & 12:30 pm*

- The 10:30am service will be designed for families with younger children (5th grade and under).
- The 12:30pm service will be tailored to families and individuals without younger children (6th grade and up).
- While anyone is welcome at either service, we are asking for families with children to attend the 10:30am service. Children age 5 and older will sit with their parent(s).
- Child care for ages 0–4 years will be provided during the 10:30am service only
- Each family will be separated by 3–4 seats from the next family. Ushers will alternate seating patterns to ensure social distancing.

### *Growth Groups*

Growth Groups will be conducted online on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm through the last Wednesday of May.

## Phase 2 — TBD

### *Sunday Morning Service Schedule*

We are conducting multiple services in order to meet the guidelines to reduce the seating in the auditorium to in order to maintain social distancing.



***Service Times—10:30 am & 12:30 pm***

- Everyone is encouraged to attend either of our services.
- Childcare will be available for children up through 5th grade.

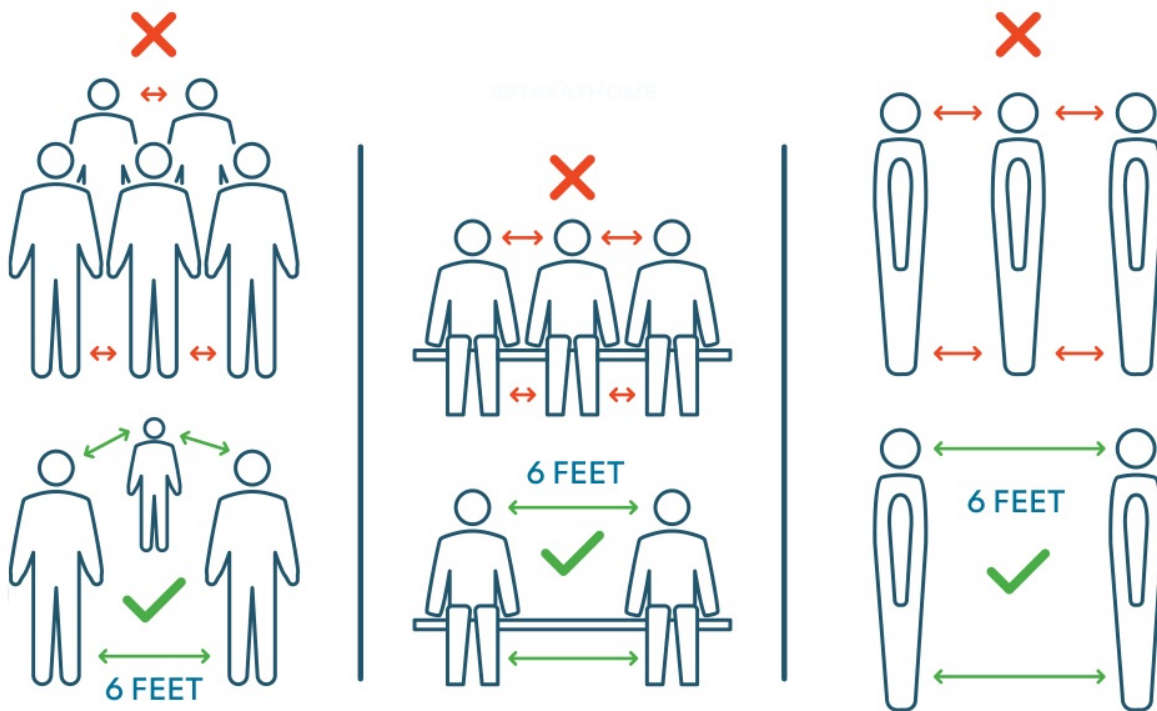
***Growth Groups***

We will resume Growth Groups, in person, the week after children return to school. Stay informed by watching for emails and reading updates on our website and app.

# Social Distancing



## New Social Distancing Measures



## Social Distancing

Signs will be posted around our meeting space reminding us of these precautionary measures and social distancing requirements. These instructions and reminders shall be observed by members and guests each time we gather until further notice.

No one should plan to attend services who is known to have had any contact with known COVID-19 confirmed case.

Members are asked to wear a mask and to maintain six feet of distance when speaking to one another. We ask that you bring your own mask. Masks have been purchased by Crosspoint Baptist Church and are available for those who have forgotten to bring one. (This provision is not to encourage anyone to depend upon receiving a mask each time they arrive at church). No one will be permitted into the auditorium without a mask. Adults and children age 5 and older will need masks.

## Volunteers

With the help of our volunteers, we will all be observing these social distancing policies:

- Ushers will wear masks.
- Ushers will wear gloves if passing out or collecting materials.
- Everyone will maintain social distancing of six feet at all times from the time we drive onto the property and exit our car until the time we get back into our cars after the service.
- Ushers will seat attenders before the services. Families will sit together. There will be 3-4 empty seats (or a space of 6 feet) between families (right, left, front, back).
- At the end of the services, ushers will dismiss attenders in a controlled orderly manner maintaining social distancing. Ushers may need to direct people to a specific exit door. There will be no gatherings at doorways.
- Secure receptacles will be available in the lobby for you to drop your offering, or you are encouraged to use online giving.
- Attenders are encouraged to promptly return home and refrain from fellowshiping at the end of the service.
- We will not be distributing a service bulletin or printed outline. We will continue to email announcements to the church family on Fridays.
- No coffee or food will be shared at this time.

## **Greeters, Hospitality Teams, and Connection Point**

- Greeters will be required to wear face masks. They will adhere to social distancing of six feet and will abstain from hand shaking.
- Greeters will be stationed outside, next to the fountain, and inside the foyer. They will have assigned positions. They will wear their “How May I Help You?” lanyards.
- We will have greeters, ushers, and signage directing visitors with children to the Crosspoint Kids class for childcare registration.
- The Connection Point will be staffed with one team member. They will wear a mask and gloves and adhere to social distancing. They will ensure that there is at least six-feet of space in-between them and those they are assisting.

## **Invitation/Altar Call**

- At the end of the Bible message, attenders will be encouraged to make decisions in their seat or speak privately with their Growth Group leader after the service.

- After the services, prayers with people needing spiritual counsel will be made while observing social distancing guidelines.

## **Believer's Baptism**

When we resume baptisms, we will strictly observe these social distancing policies:

- Baptistry workers will wear face coverings, gloves, and protective eye glasses, and will endeavor to maintain six feet of distance as much as possible.
- People getting baptized will bring their own clothing.
- We will provide a commemorative T-shirt for them keep when they get baptized.

## **The Lord's Table**

- We will wait to observe the Lord's Table until we have a better sense of health needs. We will likely pre-distribute elements to each chair.

## **Children's Ministry**

- We will use a paper check in system (no touch screens) and encourage parents to use their own pens. If they do not have pen, we can have pens available at the child check in table and encourage them to keep it for later.
- We will require parents to stand six-feet apart when they pick up and drop off their children
- The forehead of children entering the nurseries and classrooms will be scanned for temperature. If your child has a fever, you will be asked to take him home and watch the services online.
- If your child has had a fever in the last 24 hours, please keep him at home for the well-being of workers and other children.
- If it is determined during a service that your child is sick, you will be called immediately, and the child will be moved to a designated pick up area.
- Snacks and drinks will not be provided by Crosspoint for children at this time.
- All workers will wear masks at all times.
- Children age 5 and older will need a mask.



- A maximum of 10 children will be allowed in each group in the nursery or classroom. When a group hits capacity, we will move a child to the next group closest to their age.
- Chairs and tables in each nursery/classroom will be configured for six-foot distancing.
- We will prevent the sharing of toys and materials among the children. We will have crayons in separate sealing storage bags. We will encourage children to play with toys individually with puzzles, blocks, coloring pages, etc. and not in groups.

# Sanitizing Facilities



# Sanitizing Facilities

- Chairs and tables are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Immediately after each service, our team of volunteers will make sure that the entire auditorium is properly sanitized.
- After each service, we will remove all trash and left over personal items from the auditorium. Personal items will be collected and held temporarily. If you notice that you have left an item, please notify us immediately.
- We are increasing ventilation as much as possible in the buildings.
- Handles to all entry/exit doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Sanitizer stations are cleaned and checked for functionality before and after each service
- Light switches are sanitized before and after every service.

## Nurseries and Children's Classrooms

- Prior to Phase 1 services, all toys will be logged into an inventory. Toys that are old, dirty, or contain grooves that are unable to be cleaned, will be discarded.
- Starting in Phase 1, all toys, chairs, counters, and tables will be thoroughly sanitized.

# Appendix



# Appendix

- “COVID-19 Suggested Church Reopening Guidelines,” Christian Law Association, Dr. David Gibbs
- “Guidelines for Opening Up America Again,” prepared by the White House and CDC, April 2020
- Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>, April 2020
- “Checklist for Churches—Reopening of Indoor Services,” Pacific Justice Institute, April 2020
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance for Faith-Based Organizations, <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/community/Resources>