Redemption Reopening FAQ’s  
May 2020

Hello Church Family!

Thank you for your prayers, patience and flexibility as we’ve walked through this unique season. We are excited that state and local guidelines will allow us to begin holding in-person services once again. However, we want you to know it will look different, at least for the time-being. Please read the FAQ’s below for more details and information. Let’s continue to be gracious, faithful and united by the Gospel as we follow Jesus together!

1. What will services look like when we re-open?

We will be adding one Saturday service (for now) in order to follow state guidelines for gathering limits as well as to follow social distancing precautions. The services will be at 4:00pm Saturday and 9:00 and 11:00 am Sunday.

Following Larimer County’s guidelines, we have an absolute maximum of 115 people (kids and adults) in the sanctuary at one time based on our square footage. We will have an overflow area set up in the lobby for additional seating (if necessary) to view a live feed of the service.

Finally, worship services will be shortened to allow for a minimum of 60 minutes in between services for transition of people and cleaning procedures to take place.

2. Who should attend services?

Please know that it is entirely optional to attend in-person services and we will be continuing to livestream our full services online Sunday morning. In-person services are for those who feel healthy and comfortable with attending.

You should not attend in-person services if you are sick or exhibit any of the COVID-19 symptoms. We would also recommend additional caution if you are age 65 or older or otherwise at higher risk.

*Note: we will NOT be checking temperatures of attendees at the door, but will have signage reminding everyone to be aware of any potential symptoms and to stay home if sick.
3. How will seating in the sanctuary be set up?

This will be a learning experience for all of us! Our plan to begin with is to have rows spaced so that social distancing recommendations (6 feet of space) can be in place between individuals and family groups. **In addition, we will have some circular tables set up in the back of the sanctuary for families with young kids to sit (one family per table).**

4. Is it required to wear a mask/face covering at the church?

The state has asked everyone (age 2 and older) to wear masks or face coverings in public, except for medical reasons. From the state web site:

- The main reason to wear a non-medical mask is to protect others. Science is telling us that some people may spread COVID-19 when they do not have symptoms. People may spread the disease when speaking, coughing or sneezing -- especially in situations where a physical distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained.

In order to honor and protect one another (especially those at the church who may be of greater risk in being affected by COVID), please wear a face covering to church on Saturday or Sunday, unless doing so would inhibit your health. This will help us to ensure that as many people are able to attend services as possible.

We will have one-time use masks available for free at the church and will continue to monitor updates from state and local government on the best action moving forward.

**Please note: While we are asking everyone to wear masks to begin with, we cannot guarantee or require everyone to do so. In addition, there will be at least a few people at church who are (at times) not wearing masks, including the teaching Pastor and the worship team during the service. If you are not comfortable being in an environment where it is possible that some will not have masks, you may want to consider continuing to watch services online for now.**

Finally, here is a helpful article on how we can view the current guidelines, including masks, through a Biblical and Christ-like lens. Let’s continue to strive for humility, grace, patience and love with one another, as Christ has shown to us. *(Romans 14, 1 Peter 2)*
5. What adjustments will you make to communion, baptisms, and worship ministry? Will we still sing corporately?

Communion will take place using individually-wrapped elements that will be pre-distributed before service. Baptisms we will handle on a case-by-case basis. Worship ministry will continue but with smaller teams to allow for proper spacing on stage.

*We will continue to sing and praise the Lord through music! However, we would encourage the continued use of masks (except in cases of health concerns) during the service in order to prevent the potential spread of viruses.*

6. Will Redemption Kids ministry and nursery resume as normal?

Based on the current state and local restrictions and guidelines, we are not able to re-open our kids ministry yet. To begin (for at least the month of June), Redemption services will not include any children’s classes or nursery. All services will be “Family Services” with children joining their families in the sanctuary. Services will be shorter and we will have some special seating and things planned for younger kids!

We recognize this will present challenges for families. *For families who are unable to bring kids to service, we would suggest finding another family to “swap” with for childcare so adults can come to service. We also will continue to provide our video lessons from the Redemption Kids ministry on Sunday mornings* and will have more updates on children’s ministry as we move forward.

7. What are you doing now to sanitize and sterilize your church building?

We are currently cleaning high-traffic areas of the building regularly, and will begin cleaning children’s area, door-handles, etc. as well.

*We are developing a cleaning and sanitization procedure for before, during and after services. Touchless sanitizer stations will be set up throughout the church. The Connect Ministry will be following a step-by-step process on Saturdays and Sundays to ensure that the sanctuary, lobby and high-touch areas are clean and disinfected prior to each service.*
8. Are you continuing to provide the coffee station on Sunday mornings?

For now, we will not have coffee (or any other refreshments) for services to help avoid unnecessary contact and spreading of germs. You are welcome to bring your own coffee or water from home!

9. Can people hug, shake hands and otherwise physically greet one another?

Based on social distancing guidelines, and our concern for protecting those at greater risk, we would ask everyone to be cautious, gracious and limited in physical contact. Please respect social distancing spacing (6 feet) as much as possible, and refrain from physical contact as much as possible. Air high-fives, waves, and thumbs-ups are good (temporary) alternatives to hugs and handshakes. If you are someone comfortable with a fist-bump or brief hug, please be sure to ask others if they are comfortable first, so as to respect and honor one another.

10. Are you going to decrease the fellowship time between on-campus worship services?

In order to ensure that we can carry out our cleaning and sanitization procedures, we will ask people to limit fellowship time before and after services. We will need to have the church fully clear at least 30 minutes prior to the next service beginning. This will also help us stay under the gathering numbers limit.

Of course, for those who are able and feel comfortable, we would encourage further fellowship outside of the church building or meeting at home or another location after services.

11. Will door greeters/the Connect Team do their jobs differently, or at all?

Door greeters will greet people from a safe distance (6 feet) and welcome verbally, avoiding physical contact. The Connect Ministry will be working with the Pastoral Team and Care Team to ensure a welcoming, secure and safe environment.
12. **What is your plan when volunteers step down or feel uncomfortable serving currently?**

We understand that for various reasons, some volunteers may not be able to serve at this time. Please communicate with your ministry leader as needed. We will continue to monitor volunteer needs as we re-open, and communicate clearly to the church for those who are able to serve.

13. **Will there still be sermon notes?**

Yes, we will have sermon notes provided before service begins at each seat to avoid unnecessary contact. **Note: you may want to consider bringing your own pen or pencil from home.**

14. **How are you helping to ensure the safety of those in the church on Sundays?**

Our Care Team is doing an excellent job thinking through the security-related issues for services when we re-open. They will be present and working with the Pastoral and Connect Teams to make sure that we have a safe and welcoming church building.

**Also, we are implementing a new Bag Policy to help ensure the safety of everyone in attendance at Redemption.** Our desire is to balance safety with being welcoming to everyone who attends Redemption. **In order to reduce the risk of security incidents, no large bags (the size of a school backpack or larger) will be permitted in the sanctuary.**

Parents accompanied by children 8 years or under are exempt from this policy, as are people with a valid need to have medical supplies immediately on hand. A Care or Connect team member will direct you to a lockable cabinet where you can secure your bag. You will be able to access your belongings during the service if you need to. Please talk to one of the pastors or Andrea McClure if this is going to create a hardship for you.
15. Will you continue offering virtual online worship?

Yes. To accommodate those who are not comfortable attending services right now, full services will continue to be live-streamed on Sunday at 10:00am through at least the month of June.

16. What is the plan for Student Ministries and Kids Club?

We are continuing to monitor state and local guidelines and hope to have more info for you soon!

17. Are you going to continue hosting special events? What about Family Camp or ladies’ gatherings?

At this time, all special events at Redemption have been postponed. We will continue to assess the hosting of events as time goes on.

18. What is the plan for ReGroups?

We have encouraged ReGroups to begin pursuing small forms of in-person gatherings. We are trusting and empowering our ReGroup leaders to decide on the best format for their group. Some groups may continue to meet exclusively online. Others may begin meeting together in some fashion. If you are not yet in a ReGroup, we’d encourage you to join one!

19. How is the church doing financially? Will this new model affect giving?

We are blessed to be in a very healthy place financially as a church, praise the Lord (and thanks to your faithful giving!) However, we have taken steps to limit our budgetary expenses and have secured additional funds to bolster our savings. Also, a significant chunk of church giving comes online (via CCB and our website), versus in-person.

For now, giving has only decreased slightly, and special giving (to things like benevolence and missions) has increased! We will continue to keep members up to date on financial changes, challenges and provision.
20. Will church ever go back to “normal” again?

Great question! We all certainly hope and pray that we will get past this virus and be able to do things like group communion, welcoming hugs and face-to-face conversations at the coffee table again! We are trusting the Lord’s sovereignty and grace for this season. However, we also want to continue to prioritize the safety, health and well-being of every person who comes to Redemption. This is also a significant witness to the world around us that we value life, seek to honor one another and pursue faith and wisdom in all of our decisions.

The good news is that the most foundational parts of church will continue! We will still study and proclaim the truth of God’s Word. We will still worship Jesus in praise and music. We will still partake in communion. We will still greet one another, encourage one another, pray for one another and fellowship together... even though it will look a bit different. We can and will still be the gathering of the saints!

As Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3)

We trust that God will continue to lead us through this unique season as we seek to maintain unity and peace, worship the Lord and serve as a light to the world around us! Thank you for praying with us and being a part of the Redemption Church family.