

Update from Redeemer Re-Opening Task Force:

- *Livestream Worship Only Will Continue through May with Plans to Begin In-Person Worship June 7th*

- *Recommendations and Guidelines for Smaller Groups Gathering for Livestream Worship*

Our Redeemer Re-Opening Task Force, which includes many medical professionals leading us as we plan, has some encouraging new updates to share.

Please read the [UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS](#) from the task force below, with guidelines for small groups beginning to participate in the livestream worship together.

We are hoping to begin some form of in-person worship services on June 7th! This is very much in line with the plans of the local churches and our regional PCA churches which we are communicating with.

We will be asking through a survey if you would anticipate attending based on different situations. We will establish and communicate a system of rotation or reservation to ensure that all of those desiring to attend have equal opportunity. The worship service will be modified for optimal safety and the experience will be substantially different from our normal worship experience. Yet we are eager to begin gathering together in a limited fashion.

We are supporting smaller groups who wish to begin gathering now to participate together in our livestream worship. All social distancing rules still apply and there are **specific guidelines regarding singing.**

Please continue to pray for this task force and for a spirit of unity within our church. There are diverse opinions and perspectives. Again, I ask you to pray that God would give us grace to be humble and patient with one another, that we would be quick to listen and slow to speak, and that we would assume the best of one another.

Grace and Peace,
David

Here are a few articles from The Gospel Coalition that you may find helpful as we plan to gather together:

CDC Document Outlines Guidance for Reopening of Churches

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/cdc-document-outlines-guidance-for-reopening-of-churches/>

Is Congregational Singing Dangerous?

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/congregational-singing-dangerous/>

Christians Are Not Immune to Conspiracy Theories

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/christians-conspiracy-theories/>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

Our goal is to reinstitute some form of in-person corporate worship on Sunday, June 7th. We will continue to monitor the COVID situation in Central Texas. As the COVID situation evolves in our community, the form our Corporate Worship takes will also need to evolve. Unfortunately, for the foreseeable future, our in-person corporate worship will look very different than it did before COVID. For example, we will need to limit the number of individuals in the church as well as the contact those individuals have with one another. Our team is discussing the best mechanisms to do this and we will release our plan on Saturday May 30th.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER SMALLER IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

We support the reinstitution of in-person gatherings as long as the below recommendations can be followed ([changes from previous document are blue](#)):

1. ISOLATION,

- a. If an individual has had close contact (<6 feet) with a person recently diagnosed with active COVID they should not attend in-person gatherings for the following 14 days.
- b. If an individual has just returned from travel to a location with a large number of active COVID cases they should not attend in-person gatherings for the following 14 days.
- c. If an individual has symptoms that could be related to COVID they should not attend in-person gatherings until symptoms clear and a negative COVID test or physician clearance is documented. Symptoms that have been associated with COVID include: Cough, Shortness of breath, Fever, chills, Muscle Pain, Headache, Sore Throat, Loss of taste or smell, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea

2. SOCIAL DISTANCING, attendees should:

- a. Remain 6 feet apart at all times.
- b. Avoid physical contact (no handshakes, hugs etc.)

3. SINGING

- a. [Singing together conveys a higher risk of transmission than any other part of our liturgy, for this reason we generally discourage group singing. However, if a group elects to sing together then it should only be done outside, all singers should wear masks and exaggerated social distancing \(> 10 feet between families\) should be utilized](#)

4. HYGIENE, attendees should:

- a. Utilize sanitizer, hand sanitizer should be available and utilized
- b. Cover cough and sneeze with arm not hand
- c. [Bathroom use should be kept to an absolute minimum](#)

5. MASK

- a. Medical-grade or homemade cotton masks are recommended. These masks should cover both nose and mouth and individuals wearing masks must limit touching the mask

6. FOOD

- a. We recommend not sharing meals or snacks at gatherings

7. VENTILATION

- a. Outdoor activities & gatherings are preferred. If indoor meetings are held, try to optimize space & air turnover (ventilation).

8. CHILDREN

- a. Children should be encouraged to follow the above guidelines with the exception that children under 3 years old are not required to wear masks.

Finally, it is important that people not feel pressure to attend in-person gatherings. We respect individual autonomy, conscience and risk tolerance. When possible, please offer a virtual alternative during in-person meetings, for example Zoom, Face Time, etc.

Group Included: John Betik, Skip Culp, Laura Culp, Erin Illian, Paul Hicks, Matthew Lohse, Gary Rapp, David Rapp, Heath Robinson, Jason Smith, Ken Smith, Rachael Traweek, Carolyn Wadley, Jeff White, Joycelynn Young