

Indoor & In-Person Worship Returning November 1

Fri 10/16/2020 9:23 AM

After a great deal of prayer and discussion and two months of meeting outside and in-person, we have decided to begin in-person worship **indoors** at Shepherd on Sunday, November 1. Two important things you need to know:

1. We are firmly committed to continuing to provide a quality online worship experience as we transition back to in-person worship indoors. Please do not feel pressured to return if you are sick, or your health is in some way compromised. I do want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to provide a safe environment for your return.
2. We are living in a new world, and we must learn to adapt and live with these new circumstances in safe ways. The mission of the church has never been more critical and the role of the church in our community has never been more vital. Therefore, we must forge ahead with wisdom and caution.

ONLINE WORSHIP:

We are resolved to continue and strengthen our online ministry. We have made significant updates and strategic moves to allow us to continue this ministry. When we return to indoor worship, we are committed to continuing to provide quality, engaging, and relevant online services. Here's our current online worship schedule that will remain the same:

- Sunday 8:00 a.m. Traditional
- Sunday 11:00 a.m.
- On-Demand 24/7

We are streaming on three major platforms:

- Church online: [Live.shepnaz.tv](https://live.shepnaz.tv)
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/Shepnaz](https://www.facebook.com/Shepnaz)
- Youtube: Search Shepherd Nazarene

INDOOR & IN-PERSON WORSHIP:

Beginning on November 1st, we will begin indoor worship services on our campus. We will begin with one service at 9:30 a.m. with a limited seating capacity of 100 people so that we can provide a safe environment that follows proper social distancing guidelines. Here is the physical meeting schedule and some important

items to note regarding on-site worship:

- Sunday 9:30 a.m. Shepherd Worship Experience (RSVP Required)
- Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Prayer & Praise (Sanctuary)
- Wednesday 6:15 p.m.** Traditional Worship Experience (Sanctuary – No RSVP Required)
- Thursday 7:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery (Sanctuary)

**Please note the new option. We will be recording the Wednesday Traditional Service at 6:15 p.m., and are inviting others to worship with us in-person during this service.

Important Items to Note:

- We will ask people to RSVP via The Loop through an online reservation form for the Sunday service.
- Seating at each service will not exceed 100 people to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- We will use every other row for seating, this will provide proper physical distancing and when we move to two services . . . no chair will be sat in twice in one week.
- Chairs will be placed in groups for families to sit together, with appropriate space between groups.
- Children's ministry will be available for the indoor service for preschool and elementary age only.
- We will not take temperatures, but **we are asking you to wear masks** for the safety of each person in the building.
- All staff and volunteers will be wearing a mask unless they are singing or speaking on the stage.
- We will have multiple hand-sanitizing stations available.
- We encourage anyone who may be sick or in the high-risk category to continue to worship with us online.
- We will create a no-touch/low-touch environment for each person's safety. There will be no bulletins, no passing the offering buckets, doors will be propped open, etc.
- We encourage each person to use the Shepherd App to give, find weekly announcements, and download and use the sermon notes.
- We will sanitize all high-touch areas before, between, and after each service.
- We will dismiss by sections and exit a separate door from the entrance.
- We encourage not congregating inside the lobby.
- We currently perform preventative maintenance on all HVAC Units regularly and change the filters quarterly.

How to RSVP for a Service:

To practice safe physical distancing we only have 100 seats available at each service. To help us track this appropriately, we are asking those who wish to attend to RSVP. Each Monday a new RSVP will be made available for the following Sunday services. You will find a link to RSVP on our church website as well as our Facebook page. You do not need to bring your ticket with you. The link will not be

active until Monday, October 26th. Here is the link: [RSVP for Sunday In-Person Indoor Worship](#)

We will continue to monitor the health and safety of our congregation and make changes that are necessary to continue to be safe. We are cautiously optimistic and do not anticipate having to close the campus again but are committed to your safety as we move ahead. We love you and would never want to jeopardize anyone's health.

We also do not want you to feel like you must return because the "doors are open." We believe that people who participate in our online worship experience are just as much a part of the church as those who attend in person on the campus. We want you to return when, and only when you feel confident and ready. *But we do want you to return!* You know your health condition better than anyone and we are relying on you to make the best choice for yourself and your family!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- **Online Children's Ministry:**

We provide online kids church during all of our services and on-demand and will continue to do so. We also have daily activities for kids. The schedule can be found at shepnaz.org/ministries/growkids.

- **Onsite Children's Ministry:**

Children's ministry will be available for the indoor worship services beginning November 1st. Children's ministry will only be available for pre-school and elementary age children at this time. We will be using guidelines provided by the ODJFS for childcare centers and we will exceed those guidelines. More details will be made available on the website at shepnaz.org/ministries/growkids

WHAT ABOUT CLEANING?

We are taking many precautions to ensure our frequently touched spaces in each building are sanitized throughout Sunday morning.

By the way, we are building a new servant volunteer team that will be mission-critical. If you aren't afraid of gloves, sanitizer, and a little elbow grease, join our Sunday morning sanitation crew. This is a meaningful way to "wash the feet" of your sisters and brothers in Christ by wiping down frequently touched items. Email Grant at gheckman@shepnaz.org.

OTHER MINISTRIES:

- **Celebrate Recovery**

- Begins Thursday, November 5.
- Doors open at 6:45 p.m.
- Service begins at 7:00 p.m.
- Service will be held in Sanctuary with breakout groups in classrooms.

- There will be no meals and no childcare at this time.
- **Prayer & Praise**
 - Begins Tuesday, November 10. (Tentatively)
 - Service will be held in the Sanctuary to provide space for physical distancing.
 - Doors Open at 9:30 a.m.
 - Temperature will be checked upon entry as required by ODJFS Guidelines and Little Lambs.
 - Service begins at 10:00 a.m.
- **Life Groups & Sunday School Classes**
 - Currently meeting online and in person.
 - Sunday morning groups will rotate meeting in the Fireside room while we have only one service and then meet weekly once we move to two services.
 - Some groups will utilize the indoor church spaces during the week beginning November 1st.
- **Student Ministries**
 - In-Person gathering for students in 6th – 12th grade in FLC at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.
 - In-Person activities/worship/message will be broadcast live on Instagram on Wednesday evenings.
 - Sunday morning in-person youth classes (called Scion University) will meet after the 9:30 a.m. Worship Experience. Once we resume the 11:00 a.m. Worship Experience, Scion University will meet during the 9:30 a.m. service.

Please let us know if you have any questions!

God Bless,



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