

CRC Reopening Primer

The leadership of CRC has created three documents that describe our plan for a phased reopening. These documents are available at our website. They give a detailed explanation of our plan, the values and priorities behind our plan, the background to how this plan was developed, resource links we have found helpful, and a list of questions and answers we think you may be asking.

This document is a summary and will give you basic information about what lies ahead.

1) We have a phased plan for reopening that is indirectly tied to the MI Safe Start Plan. Getting inside the building will not be our first priority but instead seeking to gather in ways that are both safe and welcoming will be high on the list.

2) Our initial reopening will include the addition of an outside Sunday morning service (10:00 a.m.) at church in early June in addition to our weekly online service (9:00 a.m.). Bring your lawn chairs, socially distance, and worship together. The outside service will also be captured by a FM transmitter, so you can choose to remain in your car and listen to the service on the radio. This allows us to gather together, experience worship with limited restrictions, and keep each other safe. Church bathrooms will be open, but we strongly encourage minimal use of the facilities if at all possible.

In addition we are encouraging small groups to meet in their homes or backyards following the online or outside services for fellowship, encouragement and discipleship. We will also encourage home gatherings where you invite a few couples or families over for fellowship, dialogue about the service, and mutual encouragement. These would be informal without any long-term commitment, just a chance to connect with others, develop friendships, and experience God-centered community in a safe, socially distanced way.

3) Our plan will be flexible to take into account what the future brings. Restrictions may be lifted or reinstated. We don't know what the virus will do, and we need to be flexible as we walk through our plan. It's why we hold communication as a high value, so all of us stay informed as to how we move forward as a church.

4) Moving back into the building will require certain markers being reached such as a clear and acceptable cleaning regimen for the areas of the building people will use. Clear signage and instructions for social distancing, washing hands, and appropriate use of face masks will be required. Large groups will not gather quickly inside, but we will slowly allow staff, small group gatherings and activities in the church to resume.

5) All of this requires us to remember that God's Church is not a building but a people, so we are committed to our mission of "helping all people find and follow Jesus" and believe this mission does not require activity in our church building. We do trust that a day will come when we can resume much of the activities we love and appreciate in our church building, but the primary mission we have been given isn't dependent upon being inside the building.

None of us are experts at doing church in this new way, so we ask for your patience. We also ask that you see this as an adventure, trusting that God is with us and that He is and will grow us through this unique journey, as we continue to embrace our calling "to help all people find and follow Jesus."