

## **CRC - The Reopening Journey - Questions**

### **Won't God keep us safe?**

*Trusting God requires us to use our minds and make cautious and informed decisions about best practices for keeping people safe and minimizing risk. Trusting God is much different than testing God. Making decisions that are uninformed and risky is putting God to the test. We are told clearly in Scripture, "Do not put your God to the test." (Matthew 4:7, Luke 4:12)*

### **How will worship be different when we do gather in the sanctuary?**

*Depends. It depends on how quickly we decide to gather inside. Our plan suggests a slow approach to moving inside and therefore will have less restrictions than if we try and gather inside more quickly. Social distancing, no physical contact, changes in certain procedures (offering, Communion, meet and greet, etc.) are to be expected. Singing is deemed as a dangerous practice for the transmission of this virus, so we may require masks and have services without singing if we make inside gathering a priority early on in this process. This plan will allow us to sing without masks, because we'll start our gatherings outside and won't move inside until we deem it safe to worship together in the ways we deem best.*

### **What about communion and passing the offering plate?**

*Communion will definitely be different. More than likely, it will be personal and not corporate meaning you will either bring your communion from home or the church will provide prepackaged communion elements. You won't come forward and we may move communion to the end of the service. The offering will be encouraged to be given online and we will have offering boxes available at the back of the sanctuary or by the parking lot (when outside) as people arrive and depart.*

### **Will we be allowed to shake hands and give hugs?**

*No. Touching will be strongly discouraged initially, especially until we feel confident of the safety of all participants.*

### **How will we get coffee and do refreshments on Sunday?**

*For a time, there will not be coffee or refreshments available. You'll need to fill your cup up before you come. Once we feel it is safe to begin this service, it may entail a designated coffee server who will distribute coffee and/or refreshments so multiple people are not handling urns or carafes.*

### **How will this impact our children's programs, youth groups, and nursery?**

*These will slowly be instituted. Online and outside activities will be the norm to start, with a slow movement back toward inside, larger group activities.*

### **How will social distancing take place? Will we have to wear masks to church?**

*Designated seating will probably be the norm to start. We will limit the number of people in our inside spaces and therefore may offer additional services or opportunities to keep the group sizes to what we believe is safe. Masks may be required depending on the size and location of the group inside our building.*

**Will there be a new cleaning protocol for the church? What's been done so far?**

*Yes. We are currently reevaluating all of our cleaning protocols including a plan for a deep cleaning throughout the building before we let the building be used for any activities.*

**What about Safe Haven breakfast?**

*The breakfast club will not serve breakfast inside at tables before September. They will assess best plan and practices as we move toward September. Their efforts will be focused on pick-up breakfasts throughout the summer.*

**Does this mean Wednesday night dinners and classes may be affected?**

*We are not sure. We will continue to assess what's taking place and welcome the input of professionals in health care as we determine our Wednesday dinner and classes plan for the fall.*

**Does this mean an end to ushers and greeters?**

*Probably not an end, but a postponement for a time being. Once social distancing practices are lifted, we will consider how best to greet and usher to be welcoming and keep people safe.*

**What's a home gathering versus a small group?**

*A home gathering is an informal group of friends, neighbors, or CRC connections who decide to gather at someone's house to either watch the online service together or decide to meet at someone's house or outside after watching our service. We are encouraging people to gather for fellowship, discipleship, and support in smaller sized groups like this. A small group is an already established group of CRC folks who have met regularly for support and encouragement in faith. We encourage small groups to stay connected and to start to gather when deemed safe. Early on, we are encouraging these groups to fellowship outside as much as possible.*

**A lot of this doesn't feel very welcoming, how are we going to be welcoming in this new normal?**

*This is a high value of CRC, and we are all going to need to be creative and intentional about welcoming others as we move through this unique time. Sometimes welcoming is best expressed by maintaining social distance, having clear procedures in place, and inviting people into our lives and CRC experiences in whatever capacity they are offered. Being welcoming is a biblical calling, often described as hospitality, and we are committed to keeping others and their needs as a priority in our church plans.*

**The answers to these questions are discouraging as I think about all these changes, what do you need from me?**

*Read through the values and ministry priorities we are encouraging. Take them on. Ask God to help you grow as "we look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4) Don't be a consumer. See and trust that in all of what is taking place, God is providing opportunities for us to grow and serve the people around us.*

**What would outside / drive-in worship at CRC look like?**

*It would be similar to attending an outdoor concert. We'd create clear areas for families to set up lawn chairs. There would be a stage with an outdoor sound system. The service would look similar to a typical Sunday morning service with singing, prayer, a message, and the opportunity to fellowship (at a distance) with each other. In addition, the service would be broadcast through an FM transmitter so those who prefer to stay in their car in our parking lot can listen on their radio. In the event of inclement weather, the service could still happen via drive-in church with everyone participating through the radio in their car. Keep in mind that we will continue an online service, so people can choose to remain at home and still experience Sunday morning worship. Bathrooms would be available, but masks will be required to enter the building.*