
Reopening Plan (June 7) = Cedar Creek Baptist

1 message

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To: CCBC Office <cedarcreekbc@gmail.com>

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Church,

As guidelines for houses of worship during the COVID-19 pandemic are beginning to change, we wanted to provide our plans for resuming in-person gatherings. As a preface to the attached "**Reopening Plan**," please consider the following:

First, as a result of the diversity of convictions/consciences among our congregation, we acknowledge (in advance) the utter impossibility to provide a plan that 100% of our congregation would have chosen. Part of what defines a local church community is to commit to thinking the best of one another. We will strive to show one another grace and generosity. Like Christ, we will choose to lay down our rights and preferences for one another.

Second, please know we are seeking to adhere to CDC and state guidelines; yet, at the same time, we are mindful of our specific church body. Though outside entities are trying to offer help, CCBC best understands CCBC. Thus, we will seek to fold their guidelines into the life of our body.

Lastly, while this plan seeks to address a host of considerations for our gathering, we may yet modify an item or two (even this week!), if we feel any new information or significant changes warrant adjustment(s).

All that said, please read the attached plan. And, stay tuned this coming week for any modifications.

Gratefully in Christ,


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New Hygienic Protocols:

The Center for Disease Control has signaled the importance of having a clean, sanitized, and disinfected environment to help control any spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). We all know the difficulties in pinpointing the true significance and severity of COVID; nonetheless, CCBC has determined to take the following steps toward cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting our buildings—as we look toward reopening:

- **WEEKLY CLEANING:** Our cleaning contractor has settled on more of a “touch-point” cleaning emphasis. [i.e. focus on an increased frequency of cleaning of community areas with high human contact—especially wiping and sanitizing of surfaces].
- **DEEPER CLEANING:**
 - (1) **CARPET:** All carpeted areas (**main building**) professionally cleaned by COIT®. It was determined to be the right time based on need to have our carpets commercially cleaned before resuming church activities.
 - (2) **ELECTROSTATIC DISINFECTING:** On Friday, June 5th (2 days before our reopening), we are having the sanctuary and other areas that will see high traffic sprayed with an EPA Approved, hospital grade disinfectant [that is effective against SARS-coV2, the cause of COVID-19]. Electrostatic disinfecting is a way of quickly and evenly coating surfaces with disinfecting solutions. This is done by using an electrostatic applicator that gives a negative charge to the disinfecting solution as it exits the nozzle and lands on all surfaces in the sanctuary, balcony, select restrooms, and main hallways.
- **SANITIZING STATIONS:** We will offer highly-visible sanitizing locations in areas where supporting healthy hygiene behaviors is most important.

Attending Worship

Two Ways to Join the Service:

① Via Livestream

In your home, as we’ve done since March 15th.

For those inclined to transition back to “*normalcy*” at a later date, you can continue gathering with us via Facebook. [We will still concentrate efforts on our livestream—Phil even plans to incorporate new elements in the coming weeks!].

② In Person

In person, but a bit different.

We are overjoyed about the opportunity to meet in-person on Sunday, June 7th. We understand, however, that this will not simply be a return to church as we’ve always known it. There are precautions to take and measures to put in place.

* Though we have thoughtfully worked through this *Reopening Plan*, we will adjust if new information requires.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT IN-PERSON (UPON YOUR RETURN).

You've likely grown accustomed (in public) to seeing, anticipating, & understanding social distancing, masks, & other precautionary measures. Because we love one another, you can expect to see those kinds of things at church on June 7th. In terms of specifics, here is what a typical Sunday will look like **FOR NOW**:

Prior to Arrival

- We ask everyone to make sure they are not running a fever prior to arrival. Anyone experiencing any symptoms (100.5 degree fever or higher, coughing, shortness of breath, sneezing, etc.) should not attend our gathering.
 - We will not be checking temperatures or anything of that nature. It's your responsibility.
- We encourage those with underlying health conditions, those advanced in age, and those with compromised immune systems to stay home as well. In fact, anyone who would feel more comfortable staying home is encouraged to do so. We welcome all who remain at home to enjoy the livestream.

Arrival

- Our service will start promptly at the normal 10:30am. We ask that everyone arrive no earlier than 10:10am—as this is when our doors will open. [FYI... As we first reopen, we will not offer any scheduled activities before the 10:30am gathering.]
- Everyone will enter through the front doors—those facing Bardstown Road—just outside the sanctuary. If you would like to avoid stairs, a deacon will be able to assist you at the preschool entrance or at the rear breezeway entrance. [Please maintain social distancing practices as you will be entering alongside others].
- Deacons/Greeters will be present to help everyone enter the building in an orderly fashion and to guide you to your seats in the sanctuary. They will ensure that no individuals or family units are seated closer than six feet apart.
 - As an added precaution, all Bibles, hymnals, envelopes, pens and other items normally found in the pews will be removed. The Order of Worship will not be available in print; we will continue providing it for accessibility through email.
- Though we are not requiring masks (based off the most recent information available), we do ask that all who attend make wise determinations about wearing masks. We understand masks are not ideal at church, but we'll all be in this together! Please consider others as you make a loving and considerate decision.

The Service

- Initially, we are not offering any nursery or preschool care during the service. We know this poses a challenge to families. We suggest you do your best to “coach” your children in advance for their presence in the large gathering. We will attempt to mitigate this challenge for parents in the following ways:
 - We are working to keep the worship service to a length of no more than one (1) hour.
 - We will cater to children in simple ways by incorporating some kid-friendly songs, continuing the Children's Story, and by providing a Children's activity packet.
 - If need arises, designated spaces will be available for parents to take their children.

- Know this in advance... Much of the service will look like it usually does: the Word of God will be read, preached, prayed, sung, and displayed.
- Will there be singing? Yes. Many of us have heard about the (potential) risks of singing. We are mindful here. This is one of the reasons we delayed our reopening (rather than meet when the gathering restriction was lifted on May 24th). In our particular county, we feel the relatively few number of cases allows us to make the decision to sing. But, two things: 1) our decision here is subject to change and 2) this reality should also play into your decision to wear a mask.
 - We know some may be uncomfortable with others singing in the room, so there will be an understanding if people want to remove themselves during these times.
- While we are together, we ask that everyone refrain from shaking hands, giving hugs, and other forms of contact.

Dismissal

- After the benediction, the deacons will help with dismissal. Whereas you will enter at the front entrance, we will guide you to EXIT through the front of the sanctuary (to keep foot-traffic moving in one direction). Be mindful to maintain 6 feet social distancing between family units.
- TITHES & OFFERINGS: We will not be passing the plates, But, as you exit, the opportunity to *worship through giving* will be available. We will have a secure “Giving Box” stationed along the exit route. [Or, as always, we encourage to you give your offering online at <https://cedarcreekbaptist.com/resources/online-giving>].
- We pray for good weather, so that—if your family is comfortable—we can fellowship with one another outside the building after the service.

Other questions you may have.

Do I have to come?

No. If you would be more comfortable staying home, or if the absence of nursery makes it difficult, we fully understand. Anyone who is experiencing symptoms must stay home. Further, anyone with a compromised immune system, anyone in advanced age, and anyone with other health issues are encouraged to stay home.

Will we take the Lord’s Supper together?

Eventually, YES! We have ordered individual packets—that don’t require us to distribute the elements as we have done. We will look to the second week back for resuming Lord’s Supper.

What if I don’t have a mask?

Contact the church office (502-239-2129) in advance. We might be able to make arrangements.

Do children need to wear a mask?

We understand that it’s not exactly easy for children to wear a mask for any length of time. Grace abounds in view of the onus on us all to make wise decisions.

Will bathrooms be available?

Bathroom use should be kept to a minimum. In fact, please plan to use the restroom before you arrive— so you’re not cleaning the public restroom after yourself and your kids ☺. That said, the balcony and two restrooms at the front will be available for one-person at a time. Sanitizing and cleaning instructions will be posted.

Please know... We continue to untangle and figure out the unexpected changes that accompany these days. We know we haven’t anticipated everything perfectly. Yet, we (your staff) are available to receive any questions you may have. Please just reach out.