

A Note from Grace Church Leaders

Wow! What a journey we have been on as individuals and as a church. Coming into 2020, we would have never guessed that we would not be meeting on campus, but it has been three months since we last met on campus.

But now, after a lot of prayer and preparation, we are excited to announce that we will be meeting together again for on-campus services on June 14 at 9 am and 10:45 am.

To start, we want to say that we agree with those who feel like this may not be the perfect choice. Covid-19 has caused all of us to re-think, re-prioritize, re-orient, and re-learn how to do life, church, work, family, friendships, etc. It has also caused us to ask new questions and see new variables at play.

For some, the June 14 re-opening is too soon to meet, and for others, it is not soon enough. The protocols in our community and at Grace Church may not be enough for some, and for others, they are over the top, and they disagree with them. We have heard these things from many of you, and we understand.

For those who are not ready to meet, are at high risk, or not feeling well, we are continuing our online services. The online service will be at 10:45 am starting on June 14. The online service is available at ashlandgrace.online.church. We bless this option for you to continue to engage with Grace Church.

For those who are ready to return to on-campus services, we want to share some approved Elder details with you and what to expect. Things will be different just as they are in our community, and when you attend a grocery store or restaurant.

Physical distancing (this seems to be one of the best practices to prevent the coronavirus from spreading.)

- It will be very difficult, but please no handshaking or hugs until this season is behind us.
 - We are asking that you stay in your cars or outside our building while practicing physical distancing until the doors open for the worship service. The doors will open 10 minutes before the service beginning. After the service, please leave promptly so we can clean and get ready for the next service to begin as well as to avoid crowding at any doorway or lobby.

- The doors available to enter the building will be the Main office doors, north lobby doors, and the circle doors. These will be the entry and exit doors from the building. The school parking lot will be closed.
- Inside the worship center, the 9 am service will be using the pews marked by blue tape, and the 10:45 am service will be using the pews marked by yellow tape. Please practice physical distancing (6 feet) by family or household units within those assigned service rows. If you are the first in a row, please start by sitting in the middle and working toward the outside of each row.

Personal Protection

- We will be providing hand sanitizer at each worship center door, so we encourage you to take advantage of them.
- Face masks, we are following the governor's mask mandate at this time.
- Offering boxes and bulletins will be available on tables as soon as you walk into the worship center. People can give online, and we are providing a digital bulletin, including sermon notes, through our app. Our connection cards will all be digital.

Facility

- We will be following a facility cleaning protocol between each service. To make this process more efficient, we have removed all items from the back of the pews.
- For our weekend services, the circle bathrooms will be the only bathrooms open. We will make sure that these are clean and ready to use for each service.
- Our cafe, circle seating, junction, and main office lobby will not be open for seating or to view the service.
- In our worship center, the front wall has been painted dark color in order to help with the quality of our online services. When recording and filming, a darker background helps with reflections and coloring. We will be continuing our on lines services so we can not only reach our community but our state and around the world for Jesus.

Future Plans

- We will be opening up our Grace Groups the week of June 21. Grace Group leaders will be leading each group through the process of re-opening groups.

- At this time, we feel it would be premature to open up Grace Kids and Grace Students, so please stay tuned and pray as we consider the correct time frame to open up these ministries and all other ministries.

It is our goal to open Grace Church so that we can have reasonably safe environments for ministry. So please stay faithful in all our virtual ministry opportunities. This format of communication can not possibly answer all the questions that you have. So please reach out through our website and ask us any questions that you have.

We hope to see all of you through our on-campus services as well as our online services. We are the body of Christ, so let's love God and love others by revealing the life-giving grace of Jesus. It is this love that inspires everything we do!