

# Shepherd of Peace Reopening Plans

*Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*  
-- Isaiah 43:18–19, ESV

June 10, 2020

Dear Shepherd of Peace Church Family,

You may not remember what happened in the spring of 2016 or 2018, but you will probably never forget what has happened during the spring of 2020! The COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing guidelines that have accompanied it have changed almost everything about our daily lives, and the changes are still not over. It can and has been discouraging at times. Like you, we are ready for things to return to something approaching normal, even though we recognize that each step takes wisdom, caution, and patience. In the midst of it all, God reminds us that He leads us through the wilderness into the new things He has in store for us.

Shepherd of Peace has sought to continue our ministries and worship opportunities via Live Streaming for our congregation throughout this time of uncertainty. In the last several weeks especially, SOP Leadership has been praying for God's direction and preparing for the reopening for worship services. Today, we are thankful to share our upcoming worship plans with you:

- We will continue our online Wednesday & Sunday worship services.
- We plan to re-open Worship Services as of 6/14/20.
- Boards and groups may resume meeting, as you feel safe to do so.

In order to support social distancing, we are asking everyone who attends worship services in person to please sit every other pew and limit fellowship time following worship. Due to potentially limited seating, please make sure that you select your seat upon arriving and if you have to get up, please leave something there to indicate that someone is sitting in the pew.

The on-site worship schedule will remain the same as it has been:

- Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM CT
- Sunday Morning 9:00 AM CT

All worship services will be open for the entire family. We recommend that anyone who may be considered part of an at-risk demographic or who may not yet be comfortable coming to an in-person service to continue worshipping with us online via our LIVE STREAM.

For Holy Communion, the elements will remain covered during the consecration with distribution being performed single file down the center aisle one individual or family at a time with Pastor wearing a mask for your protection. Communicants will exit to their left and return to their seats. For anyone worshipping via the LIVE STREAM, if you would like to receive communion, please call Pastor Perkins at 636-328-5648 or at the church at 712-943-4502 to arrange a date/time.

Volunteers will begin cleaning and sanitizing the sanctuary and pews immediately after the end of the worship service. If you would like to help, there are sanitizing wipes at the end of each pew to expedite the sanitizing.

As we begin to return towards normal, the leadership and worship teams have been working to ensure that as we come back together for worship, everything is in place for you, your family, and our guests so that you may have a safe, positive, and worshipful experience.

We will be operating in this manner through July 15<sup>th</sup>, at which time we will either return to full normal worship with individuals wishing to take personal precautions may continue to do so and we will reassess everything and determine if any changes are needed at that time.

Before we close, we want to take a moment to say THANK YOU for continuing to honor Jesus Christ through your giving, online attendance, and ongoing ministry support. We are thankful to God that our online attendance has been very strong and we hope you have found it easy. Thank you for praying for our staff, our church, and our member families. We look forward to the day when we see each other face to face, but until then, count on our prayers for you and your family.

Blessings!

Shepherd of Peace Leadership Team  
(Staff, Elders, Church Council and Worship Team)