

Christ Covenant Church - PCA
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May 14, 2020

Dear Christ Covenant Family,

On May 13th the Session of Christ Covenant Church approved the recommendation for regathering proposed by a committee approved by the Session and Diaconate. The committee was composed of two church officers (Paul Covington and Jonathan Mahaffey), three members of the congregation (Debbie Davis, Brett Lewis, and Makala Smith), and was moderated by the pastor (Jim Wilkerson).

The Session and Diaconate tasked the committee with coming up with guidelines and a date for regathering. The Plan and Guidelines for Regathering for worship beginning Sunday June 7, 2020 at 10:00 AM, are included below in this letter.

The Session's instructions to the committee was to come up with a plan that enabled Christ Covenant Church to follow by faith in his grace our Lord's instructions to worship together as given in Hebrews 10:24-25,

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

The committee's desire was to come up with a plan that enabled Christ Covenant to do this while we fulfill our Lord's pleasure of loving God and our neighbor as ourselves, both within our congregation and outside of our congregation. Therefore, the plan provides for gathering in a manner that takes into consideration the well being of those attending and those not attending.

The committee and the Session want to encourage all in our congregation who are vulnerable and at a higher risk of being affected negatively by the Coronavirus to be cautious concerning regathering. We will try and do all that we can to protect and care for you if you decide to gather beginning on June 7th, but we want to assure you that our livestream of the service will continue so that you can participate from your home.

The committee and the Session want to encourage all our parents with young children to be cautious concerning regathering with your children. If you decide to participate by regathering on June 7th with the congregation, we encourage you to keep your children with you at all times, accompany them to the bathroom, and help them be mindful of how they conduct themselves around others for their safety. There will be no nursery or children's church during the service. Some parents may want to consider rotating each week. One parent may stay home with the children, while the other attends worship. We are not requiring this but it was a consideration suggested by the committee.

The committee encourages everyone to consider the CDC Guidelines as we gather provided [here](#).

As we seek to regather beginning on June 7th The Session encourages each of you to participate with a heart to worship God in Spirit and truth, and to walk in step with the Spirit by faith in Christ with the fruit of love for one another. We are bound together as the body of Christ as the family of God by the Spirit of unity. We recognize that each of us has views, opinions, preferences, and practices that differ from one another. But when we gather, walking worthy of the calling with which we've been called in Christ, our goal is to worship together, encouraging and building one another up in love. Our gatherings will be different than they have been and we need to be ready to adjust our expectations and practices as we love God and our neighbor as ourselves.

Please read over the following "Plan and Guidelines for Regathering" for Christ Covenant Church. We want to do the best we can in communicating with you during this time. Therefore, our communication plan is as follows:

- The letter including the plan and guidelines will be emailed and mailed, as well as posted on our website and Facebook page.
- The elders and deacons of the church will be contacting you to discuss any concerns and answer any questions you may have.
- On Wednesday May 20th at 7:00 PM pastor Jim will be addressing any concerns or questions you may have during our Zoom Bible study time. Please follow the link to that study through the weekly email or by using the church website www.ccotc.org
- Also, on Sunday May 17th and 24th following the morning worship service, we will continue our Facebook Live streaming and take any questions you may have at that time.

A Plan and Guidelines for Christ Covenant Church Regathering

1. Steps to be taken prior to gathering:
 - a. Form a committee to establish a plan.
 - b. Send out an email and letter to the congregation to share with them the plan. The plan would also be made available on the church website and Facebook page.
 - c. Communicate the plan through a Zoom meeting on Wednesday May 20th 7:00 pm that allows for Q&A.
 - d. After the plan is communicated by email and letter, allow time after the Sunday service on May 17th & 24th for the congregation to ask questions through FaceBook Live.
 - e. After the email and letter have gone out, have Deacons and Elders call each family unit in their Shepherding Groups sharing with them our desire to resume meeting for Sunday worship, listen to any concerns they may have, answer questions they may have, and assure them that the service will be live-streamed for anyone not comfortable with gathering.
 - f. Encourage people to not gather if they are concerned about the risk.
 - g. Clean the church thoroughly using the present cleaning team.
2. Guidelines for Gathering:

- a. Re-gather for Sunday worship beginning Sunday June 7th at 10:00 am 1824 Barnwell St.
- b. Congregants will be encouraged to wear a mask and / or gloves to the service, but it will not be required.
 - i. Church will provide a table with masks and gloves outside the entry doors (these are being donated)
 - ii. Hand sanitizers will be provided in numerous places inside the church building (this is being donated)
- c. Front double wooden doors will be open for entering the building.
 - i. Signs and tape will be used to indicate and direct to Entry Doors
 - ii. Signs will be posted at Entry and in Narthex encouraging safe social distancing, discouraging hand shaking, hugging, and kissing
- d. Front glass doors will be used to Exit the building
 - i. Signs and tape will be used to indicate and direct to Exit Doors
 - ii. Other doors will not be used, unless there is an emergency.
 - iii. Signs will be placed on those doors and cones will be placed in front of the doors.
- e. Sanctuary doors in the immediate area of the Narthex will remain propped open for entry into the Sanctuary.
- f. Sanctuary door in the back right corner, closest to the Nursery wing will remain open for exiting the Sanctuary.
 - i. Other sanctuary doors will remain closed and signs will be placed on them indicating that these doors are not in use.
- g. The order of worship will be emailed out to the congregation during the week prior to the service.
 - i. A paper version of the order of worship will also be provided on a table inside the entry doors to the Sanctuary that people can pick up on their own.
- h. An Offering Box will be placed just inside the entry Sanctuary doors and at the exit Sanctuary door to collect tithes and offerings.
 - i. The Deacons will collect and count after the conclusion of the service.
 - ii. We will continue to provide an opportunity for online giving.
- i. Every other pew will be marked as available for seating in the sanctuary.
 - i. Ushers will encourage six feet distancing between family units.
 - ii. Ushers will seat from front to back.
 - iii. Ushers will encourage separation in seating between mature adults and families with younger children.
- j. The service will follow the order we've been following lasting 1 hour and continue to be live-streamed and recorded.
 - i. Those at risk will be encouraged to continue participating in the worship service via live stream.
- k. The order of worship will include printed hymns and Scripture so that the pew hymnals and Bibles do not have to be used.
 - i. Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pews.
- l. Bathrooms will be for designated use:
 - i. The women's bathrooms closest to the Adult Life Group room will be used for women without children.

- ii. The men's bathrooms at the end of the hall closest to the back doors of the church will be used for men without children.
 - iii. The bathrooms at the top of the Nursery Wing next to the kitchen will be the only bathrooms open for use by families with children.
 - iv. Children will be required to use the bathroom with a parent or guardian to ensure safe bathroom practices.
 - v. Bathroom doors will be propped open.
 - vi. Bathroom use guidelines will be posted outside and on the stalls inside the bathrooms.
 - m. There will not be a nursery for children 0-3.
 - n. There will not be children's church for children 4-6.
 - i. Parents who bring their children will be encouraged to keep children with them at all times.
 - ii. Parents with young children will be encouraged to rotate on Sunday in worship. One parent can keep the child(ren) home and watch the live stream while the other parent participates onsite.
 - iii. The Narthex and hallways will be available spaces for families with young children to participate in the service if they feel they will be or are a disruption in the Sanctuary.
 - iv. Children's Ministry Team is planning some Zoom events for families with young children.
 - v. The service will play on the monitors and be heard over the speakers in the Narthex and hallways.
 - vi. All rooms will be locked.
 - o. We will not serve coffee or tea for a Fellowship Time after the service. The Hospitality Room will be locked.
 - p. There will be no Life Groups following the service. Doors will be locked.
 - q. One Deacon will remain outside the Sanctuary during the service.
 - r. Ushers will exit congregants back to front.
 - s. We will serve Communion once a month (Date TBA).
 - i. Two people with gloves and masks will prepare individual prepackaged communion cups and wafer.
 - ii. The wafer and cups will be set on covered tables in the front of the sanctuary.
 - iii. Family units will come forward and pick up their individual sacrament plate containing the cup and wafer and return to their seat.
 - iv. Everyone will partake at one time from their pew.
 - v. Provided trash receptacles for people to place their cups and plates
3. Steps to be taken after the service
- a. Thoroughly clean the church by the cleaning team.