

Covenant's In-Person Worship Reopening Plan
Amended July 29, 2020

- I. Guidance: We will follow the guidance given by the Arkansas Department of Health, for the Phase 1 of Reopening Arkansas as detailed in *COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship and Supporting Information for the Guidance for Places of Worship* (attachments). Please read these documents.
- II. Special notes from the above guidance:
 - a. Every other pew has been closed to seating and open pews have been marked in 6 ft. increments. Families should sit together. No more can sit on any one pew than will allow 6 ft. between individual or family groups.
 - b. Face coverings are required to enter the building.
 - c. We recommend children ages 2-10 wear face coverings, but the decision will be left to the parents.
 - d. Children must remain with parents at all times to maintain social distancing.
 - e. You should stay at home if ...
 - i. You have had a fever of 100.4 or higher in the past 2 days,
 - ii. You have a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell or other symptoms of Covid-19,
 - iii. You have had known exposure to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
 - f. You are advised to stay home if ...
 - i. You are in the higher risk group 65+ years old,
 - ii. You have underlying high risk health conditions (as defined by CDC guidelines as): asthma, chronic lung disease (such as COPD, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, interstitial lung disease, and cystic fibrosis), diabetes, heart disease (including congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, pulmonary hypertension, cardiomyopathy), persons on renal dialysis, severe obesity (defined as BMI >40), persons living in nursing home or long term care facility, liver disease, and immunocompromised (HIV, cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplant, congenital immunodeficiency, or those on chronic steroids and other immune weakening medications)
 - g. Entry and Exit. Entry and exiting will be restricted to the front doors (main double doors) of the sanctuary.
 - h. Restrooms. To ensure appropriate social distancing, only 2 people or a parent/child combination will be allowed into the restrooms at a time.
 - i. Ushers will be monitoring the front entry (other entrances will be closed) and providing hand sanitizer, ensuring social distancing, limiting numbers in restrooms and assisting anyone who needs help.
 - j. Please maintain 6 ft. of social distancing at all times and no physical contact.
 - k. No visitation will be allowed in the building, but all are encouraged to fellowship outside with appropriate social distancing.

- l. Tithes and offerings will not be collected by “passing the plate” for those who attend in-person services. You may place your tithe and offering in the offering box located on the left as you enter the sanctuary through the center (main) doors. Other ways to give are by online giving, mailing your gift, using your bank’s bill pay service, or by dropping your gift off at the church office.
 - m. Bulletins will be placed at the end of each pew in the hymnal rack.
 - n. No childcare, children’s church or children’s Sunday school will be provided on site.
 - o. Those leading worship (pastors, elder and deacon) and members of the ensemble will not be required to wear face coverings while speaking / singing. The guidance for social distancing of at least 12 ft. between those speaking / singing and those sitting in the pews will be maintained. In order for the ensemble to effectively lead the congregation musically and given the limitations of space and equipment, we may not be able to achieve the recommended social distance between the members of the ensemble.
 - p. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be observed in a modified manner as follows:
 - i. The elements will not be distributed as we have done in the past.
 - ii. Individual communion wafer and juice sets (a cup with wafer and grape juice individually sealed) will be made available in the cup holders at the end of each pew (8 total packets per pew). Sets will also be available in the cup holders on closed pews in the event extra packets are needed. Congregants will be able to reach behind them for extras if needed. The sets we are using may be viewed at www.celebrationcup.com.
 - iii. The wafer in the individual communion set is not GF. GF bread will be available per our normal practice – individually packaged for pick up in the foyer.
 - iv. When the pastor administering the sacrament gives the instruction to partake of the bread, peel back the top grape-colored tab of the individual communion set to find the wafer; then, when instructed to partake of the cup, peel back the second tab to drink the juice.
 - v. You may place the empty cup back in the cup holder.
 - q. The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered in a modified manner consistent with the guidelines set forth in this document.
 - r. Groups that are part of Covenant’s ministry and those approved by the leadership of Covenant are allowed to meet at Covenant consistent with the guidelines set forth in this document.
- III. Live Streaming: We will continue to live stream the services indefinitely.
- IV. Registration for Those Wanting to Attend In-Person Worship:
- a. To achieve social distancing, we must limit the number of people in the sanctuary at any given time to a maximum of 107.
 - b. There are two ways to register for each Sunday:
 - i. Email Link. The congregation will be sent an email each Wednesday with a link to a registration page in Realm where you will be able to register you and your family for worship the coming Sunday.

- ii. Directly in Realm or the Realm Connect App. Registration opens on Wednesday for the coming Sunday service. You can access the registration page for each Sunday in your Realm through the “Events.”
 - c. What do I do if the maximum number of registrations have been met and registration has been closed? You are able to email the contact person (Peggy) by clicking the “Contact” button on the registration page. Indicate that registration has been closed and you would like to be automatically registered for the following Sunday.
 - d. If you need to set up your Realm account, please contact the church office.
 - e. If you are unable to utilize Realm, you may register by emailing your request to the church office to be registered.
- V. Schedule:
- a. This amended reopen plan will start on June 7, 2020.
 - b. This schedule and plan may be amended anytime and without notice in the event further guidance from the governing authorities warrants such action.