

Proposed timeline for Ridgeline returning to corporate worship

Revised 5/21/20

Introduction

On March 11th, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak to be a global pandemic. Ridgeline leadership responded by moving worship services online and suspending all ministries and activities, both in home groups and on campus. It has been our goal to take precautions and develop strategies to prevent or slow the spread of the virus to our employees, attenders, and their respective families and communities. It is time for us to make tentative plans to safely and responsibly reopen our church as recent government and community conversations are turning toward reopening our communities.

Policies

As we begin to think about reopening our ministries and congregational worship we must agree on new policies that will keep the most vulnerable among us safe and will be loving to our members and our community. We are obligated to obey our governing authorities, to seek the welfare of the community in which God has placed us as salt and light, and to walk in love (Romans 13:1-10, Romans 14:1-23, and Jeremiah 29:7).

Policies to consider are as follows:

- Social distancing, reduced seating, crowd limiting, and additional worship services
- Sanitation before, between, and after services
- Traffic flow to reduce incidental contact
- Leaving doors open to reduce cross contact
- Extra hand sanitizer in every area
- Reducing items and closing off areas that limit potentially affected areas
 - (Examples: taking all the books out of the backs of the pews and from the resource tables, moving all the hangers, clearing the welcome center, closing water fountains, closing off the basement and children's rooms, etc.)
- How to safely resume children's ministry
- Policy enforcement
- Parking lot service for those who are not yet comfortable coming inside

Sanctuary Renovation considerations

We have applied for township permits and construction work is being planned for the sanctuary renovation project (which includes some deconstruction, pew and carpet removal, ceiling replacement, stage renovation, flooring replacement, chair installation, and office suite renovation). The goal would be to have most of the sanctuary renovated by Labor Day, September 7th.

Resources

Website that outlines our legal right to assemble in worship and helpful guidelines:
www.reopenchurch.org

ReOpening Church Timeline - *Subject to Change

Of course this needs to be said: the following timeline is subject to change as we receive new information. This, we believe, is the best plan that we have with what we know right now.

The two goals that the proposed timeline helps us accomplish are 1.) safely and responsibly reopening church according to our local authorities' guidelines, and 2.) completing the majority of our worship center renovation project.

There are some general guidelines that apply across all of the proposed phases:

1. This is just a plan - it is subject to change.
2. No one has to participate if they are uncomfortable with the phases or timeline.
3. No one with a compromised immune system should feel any pressure to attend.
4. If you have a fever, cough, sneezing, or display any symptoms of sickness you should not attend any gathering.
5. If you have had recent contact with someone who has tested positive for CoVid19 you should not attend any gathering until you receive a negative test or have been sufficiently quarantined.
6. Every service will be broadcast online, as it has been since March 15th. However, services will be live on Sunday mornings rather than pre-recorded and edited.
7. Any on campus event needs an RSVP so we may plan accordingly.
8. All services should be limited to one hour and fifteen minutes if possible due to limited access to restrooms.

Current - Only online services

Sunday, May 24	Online
Sunday, May 31	Online

Phase 1 - Move to small groups and small service groups

On **June 7th** we are endorsing small group worship gatherings. These small groups are not necessarily going to be organized by the church. We are not choosing small group leaders or homes. We are simply endorsing those who wish to gather in responsible and safe small groups for worship. *You are not expected to participate in a small group gathering if you do not want to or you do not feel comfortable regarding CoVid19 and your health. No one has to participate in a small group gathering.* But for those who are ready and comfortable, we will provide some guidelines that we encourage you to follow if you choose to gather in a small group for worship. These guidelines are meant for your health and safety and for those with whom you will have contact in the week following your small group gathering.

Guidelines for small group gatherings:

1. Small groups that are endorsed by Ridgeline are those gathering for the purpose of (a) participating in the Sunday worship broadcast, (b) participating in a small group bible study, accountability group, fellowship group, and/or discipleship group, and (c) participating in other church organized events, such as work days at the church.
2. If you or any person in your family has a fever or symptoms or are have a compromised immune system you should not attend a small group, but should seek medical attention.
3. Make every effort to provide a sanitized and safe environment for those attending. Outdoor small group gatherings seem to be the best option until further notice. Decide as a group if masks are required and what distancing guidelines should be followed.

Office hours and staff workdays will resume to fully open.

Worship services from this point forward will be live broadcast with a small group meeting at the church (limited at first to elders and their family members, staff and their family members, and worship team personnel and their family members).

Sunday, June 7 One live online broadcast and a small group option

Sunday, June 14 One live online broadcast and a small group option

Phase 2 - Add two drive in service options

On **June 21st** we will add a second service and a drive-in option. We will broadcast our worship service on an FM transmitter to people in the parking lot (whether in their cars or in appropriate distance in chairs)

***Bring Your Own Communion Elements** service on **Sunday, June 21st** for our first Lord's Supper service since March!

***Sunday, June 21** Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 drive-in services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, June 28 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 drive-in services (9 & 11am)

Phase 3 - Add two tent service options

On **July 5** we will add to the previous options an outdoor tent service. You may bring a lawn chair and sit in the tent, or sit outside of the tent, or at a distance in the parking lot, or you also will have the option to stay in your car and participate.

Sunday, July 5 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 tent services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, July 12 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 tent services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, July 19 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 tent services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, July 26 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 tent services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, Aug. 2 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 tent services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, Aug. 9 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 tent services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, Aug. 16 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 tent services (9 & 11am)

Phase 4 - Add two sanctuary service options

On **August 23rd** we will add to the previous options an indoor sanctuary service. This also depends on the construction progress. (At this time, if it is still relevant, we will scan for fevers and recommend face masks).

Sunday, Aug. 23 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 sanctuary services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, Aug. 30 Small group option, a live broadcast online, & 2 sanctuary services (9 & 11am)

Sunday, Sept. 6 (Labor Day weekend - same as above)

Phase 5 - One service in one room

On **September 13** we will go back down to one service in one room with children's ministry resuming as it was before pandemic lockdowns.

Sunday, Sept. 13 Back together in one service in the renovated sanctuary