

A Plan for a Modified Return to In-Person Worship

While the specific date to permanently return to in-person worship has not been set, after recent discussions in the August deacons meeting and with continued guidance from the COVID-19 Task Force, the ministerial staff has put together a possible proposal for a multi-week trial with volunteers from the deacon body to help us prepare for when services are allowed. Local spikes in infection rates and trends in the Rome area will continue to be monitored, and worship plans may change in response to the changing conditions.

In anticipation of the day we can return to worship, the staff is proposing the following plan:

Sanctuary:

- The Sanctuary, Narthex and available restrooms will be disinfected before each service.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be provided.
- Access to restrooms will be limited. A list of available facilities will be provided.
- A one-way traffic pattern will be established for entering and exiting the building.
- Worshippers will be seated front to back upon arrival and dismissed from back to front upon exiting.
- There will be limited access to other areas of the building.
- A maximum of 50 people will be allowed in the Sanctuary to begin with.

Before Worship:

- Individuals/families will reserve spaces by Thursday each week through an Eventbrite link that will be sent out to the entire church body.
- Worshippers should be ready to enter no later than 15 minutes before the service.
- Worshippers aged four and older are required to wear masks.
- Worshippers should socially distance from family units in front of them while waiting in line.
- Family units of worshippers will enter from the outside of the sanctuary by two lines on the left and right. The middle doors will not be used.
- The ushers who will be at the door will check the names off of the list when people come in and will write down the name and contact info of a visitor if we have one.
- After a temperature check, worshippers will be escorted to their seats, where an order of worship will have been placed.
- Worshippers should keep their masks on for the entire service and stay in their seats unless there is an emergency or need for restroom.

Worship:

- No physical contact with other worshippers is allowed.
- There will be limited singing with masks.
- With a goal to allow one hour or less from the time people enter the Sanctuary until they exit, the length of the service will be shorter.
- Tithes and offerings will be received in secured receptacles in the narthex. No offering plates will be passed.
- Communion will be individually pre-packaged.
- No child care or nursery will be provided at this time.
- Worshippers will exit the Sanctuary one row at a time to allow for proper distancing, with instructions to keep on masks and stay socially distant if visiting outside after the service.
- Matt and Keith will be responsible for any required contact tracing related to worship.

All worshippers must:

- Wear face masks at all times (masks will be provided, if needed)
- Get temperature checked upon entering the Sanctuary (anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted to enter, nor will anyone in that person's family unit or who rode in a vehicle with that person to the church).
- Sit together as family units to maximize the amount of space utilized
- Maintain a minimum six-foot space between other family units

People will be asked to worship remotely if they are ill, have underlying health concerns, or have been exposed to the virus.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Timing and offering of virtual Bible Study, which normally precedes worship
- Recruitment of volunteers for temperature checks, ushering, mask monitors, helping with lining worshippers up outside, etc.
- Potential need for multiple services or overflow space, should the number of potential worshippers exceed expectations

A Plan for a Modified Return to In-Person Meetings

In an attempt to advance the ministries of the church while maintaining an environment of safe practices, the ministers are proposing a plan for age-level ministries to resume with a modified schedule on Wednesday evenings.

This schedule would include:

4:30-6:15 p.m.	Curbside Meal Pick up, Chapel Parking Lot
6:00	Pastor's Virtual Fellowship and Prayer Time
6:20	Pastor's Virtual Bible Study (very limited in-person)
6:00-7:15 p.m.	Children's Faith Development Groups
6:00-7:15 p.m.	Youth Ministry Mid-week gathering

Indoor and in-person gatherings will implement consistent practices throughout age-level ministries. These include:

- Entrances specified for each age-level
- Hand sanitizer provided at each entrance
- Restrooms limited and identified for each group
- One-way traffic pattern established for entering and exiting the building
- Class location determined by social distancing standards based on activity level of each group.
- No food or snacks will be served or allowed in the building

All leaders and participants must:

- Wear face masks at all times (masks will be provided, if needed)
- Get temperature checked upon entrance (anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted to enter, nor will anyone in that person's family unit or who rode in a vehicle with that person to the church).
- Maintain a minimum six-foot space between other participants who are not from the same household

Specific precautions for each age level

Preschool-Grade 6

Preschool-Grade 1 children will be received at the Playground entrance.

Grade 2-6 children will be received at the Courtyard entrance

Parents will not enter the corridors where classes meet.

Classroom supplies labeled and packaged for each participant

Youth—Grades 7-12

Youth will enter the building through the ball court and ascend the stairs to the Youth Room.

All furnishings other than chairs will be rearranged/removed

A maximum of 28 persons will be allowed in the Youth Room

Adults

- Adult Prayer time and Bible Study will be conducted by Matt from the Chapel through the ZOOM network.
A maximum of 10 family units will meet in-person in the Chapel
- Women's small Group may be conducted on the Third floor of the Education Building. A maximum of 10 persons will meet in the Builders Classroom.

Curbside Fellowship Meal--Prepared by Chef Greg

- Packaged in sealed containers, placed in handled bags
- Reservations required for meals and time of pick up between 4:30-6:15 p.m.
- Drive through only

Food service employees and volunteers will:

- Under go temperature checks
- Wear facemasks
- Place food packages in vehicles but not make physical contact with driver
- Receive payment without signature

Each minister will be responsible for performing any needed contact tracing related to his or her event/bible study.

Individuals should not attend if they are ill, have underlying health concerns, have been exposed to the virus, or have been quarantined from school or work.