

Church at the Grove's Plan to Resume Gatherings on Campus

We know you're as excited as we are to restart live services, which will happen on June 21st at both campuses. There are a number of details that we want to communicate with you, especially what you can expect when you return.

Our gatherings will be different at both campuses as we seek to provide a safe and healthy opportunity for our entire church family to meet and worship together.

We will have services at 9:15 and 11:00 am each week, just as we have in the past. However, there will not be any Kids Grove classes provided, nor will there be a nursery. At this time, we have no date to suggest when these activities will begin. No pre-service activities will take place inside the building, and no hospitality or guest services will be available at this time. We are complying with CDC guidelines, which can be viewed in their entirety here:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fphp%2Ffaith-based.html

We believe that if we follow these suggestions, we will create a safer environment for our church family to gather:

- Please do not attend if you have any symptoms related to COVID-19 exposure (elevated temperature, trouble breathing, cough, absence of taste and smell). In addition, do not attend if you have been exposed to anyone that has been or might have been exposed in the last 14 days.
- Social distancing will be implemented in everything we do. From seating in the Worship Center, to the locations of the technical team and worship team, a minimum of six feet of separation is our goal. Shaking hands, hugs, and other physical contact is discouraged.
- Masks are not mandatory, thus we recommend that you bring your own if you feel it contributes to your safety and that of others.
- Hand sanitizer bottles have been placed in various locations. We encourage you to use them as necessary. (Feel free to bring your own as well.) We ask you to monitor the use of the stations by children to avoid waste. Washing

hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after coughing, sneezing, or using the restroom is expected.

RESERVATIONS

We have been studying churches who have started meeting ahead of us, learning from their processes, and discussing what is best for Church at the Grove. Due to the limited capacity of the auditorium, you will be asked to make “reservations” using the website or app to attend the following Sunday. Other churches are successfully taking this approach, and we will use this process to monitor our capacity compared to those who desire to attend. This also allows us to pre-plan some of the seating arrangements to ensure social gathering distances can be maintained. We will ask you to commit to either the 9:15 or 11:00 gathering and to indicate the number of people attending.

GREETING

Greeters will be on the front line to ensure your safety and that our procedures are implemented for your protection. All members of the Greeter team will strive to maintain a minimum of six feet from all attenders. Unfortunately, greeters will not be giving handshakes, hugs, or fist bumps. Greeters will be focused on welcoming, directing, seating, and escorting to provide the best welcome they can.

Greeter roles/positioning:

- Door greeters will be positioned at the doors, which will be propped open so nobody is required to touch door handles.
- No programs or encounter cards will be printed, but you can still register online and submit prayer requests at the website or on the church app.

PARKING/SEATING

As you arrive, you will be directed on where to park by the parking team. We will try to park every other spot to safely distance each family as they exit their vehicles and enter the building. We will have children’s materials available outside as you enter the building. Once you enter the building, you will be seated in the following fashion:

- Enter through the center doors, and be escorted to your seats by greeters, seated as family groups
- Seated from the front of the auditorium to the back
- Seated by family with a space of three seats between each family
- Attendees will exit the auditorium by rows as directed by the ushers, beginning at the back

ENTER/EXIT

Everyone will enter and exit the auditorium through the center doors, until the center sections are full. Side doors and sections of seats will be used once the center is full. The center doors will close when the countdown video has commenced, and nobody will be allowed to enter or exit those doors until the service is completed and the ushers reopen the center doors.

COMMON AREAS

The hospitality counter in the lobby, the office, the nursery and the children's rooms will all be closed. The water fountain will not be in use at this time.

RESTROOMS

Our restrooms will be open, but they are not designed for social distancing. One sink at a time should be used. Paper towels may be used to wipe down handles and open doors upon completion. Please be respectful of those around you who might be more concerned with distancing and avoid overcrowding.

Restrooms will not be monitored by volunteers for the sake of maximum privacy, so please self-police restroom usage. Hand sanitizer will be available upon exiting the bathrooms. We respectfully ask that you use the facilities at home before coming to church, so as to minimize the need for the restroom.

TECH & MEDIA TEAMS

You'll notice a few changes when you arrive for the worship gathering. Because we are now streaming the service, cameras have been set up in the Worship Center

at our Walnut Grove campus. We are now training servant leaders to be camera operators, sound engineers, and video engineers at that campus. Please pray for our expanded technical team and understand that they are not allowed to shake hands or hug at this time. There will be a camera recording in each of the back corners of the auditorium at Walnut Grove, as well as in the center aisle. An usher will escort you around the equipment to and from your seats, before and after the gathering. Seating at our Social Circle campus has been altered slightly to allow for more seats in the auditorium, while still maintaining a safe social distance of 6 feet between families.

GIVING

There is now a giving box located in the lobby at each campus, as we have discontinued the passing of the Joy buckets and the use of church generated envelopes. Many of our members have transitioned to online giving, and we recommend you consider this option. You are welcome to give through mail, by text, through the app, or by using your own envelope and depositing your gift in the giving box in the lobby.

CLEANING

Our staff cleans our buildings, so please be incredibly mindful that every surface that is used will require their attention each week. We want to minimize those requirements. We will have a team of servant leaders and staff on hand to sanitize between gatherings. We will be wiping down every surface that is touched with Cleaning Wipes and spraying every chair used in the auditorium with a Disinfectant Spray following the 9:15 service.

SPECIAL THANKS

As a special note, we are thankful for the staff and several key volunteer leaders who have helped us transition into a technologically relevant presence in our community. Numerous hours have been spent researching, purchasing, building, installing, understanding and training on the video and sound equipment necessary to stream our services online, as well as some upgrades to our facilities. The gatherings are broadcast on our website, the app, and on our Facebook page. Thank you for helping us continue to reach people far from God and lead them to become followers of Jesus.