



PHASE-IN PLANS

Modified June 2, 2020

PHASE 1

Tentatively May 31 and June 7

Explanation

We will ease into gathering together with two weeks of outdoor services.

Worship Plan

- In MRCC east parking lot *or* field east of the parking lot.
- 8:30 and 10:30 am (identical services); 50 minutes max.
 - Note: modified to one service, 9:00 am, for June 7
- All ages are invited. All elderly and/or the most vulnerable with underlying health conditions are encouraged to stay home and worship with us via livestream.
- We will continue to provide a livestream service each Sunday morning.
- Extensive communication ahead of time explaining the service details and emphasizing the importance of social distancing and expectations while we are together.
- Greeters holding signs welcoming people and encouraging social distancing when they choose a place to sit.
- Seating: Everyone encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket. MRCC will not provide seating.
- Communion: Everyone bring their own communion. MRCC will not provide communion. We will have a few "communables" (disposable communion cups) available for guests who might come unprepared.
- The service will include worship, communion, sermon, invitation, and any church-wide announcements that need to be made.
- Songs for each service will be shared with members via a link on the MRCC app or website so they can open that ahead of time and access the lyrics and music.
- There will be no PowerPoint projection of any kind.
- The building and restrooms will not be open except for emergencies.
- In the event of bad weather, we will cancel the outdoor service and do only livestream.

Guidelines

- We will continue to stream our services for those who should not attend in person and for those who are more comfortable staying at home.
- If you have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have been exposed to someone who does, please stay home.

- We encourage our most vulnerable church family members to continue to worship from home.
- Social distancing guidelines should be observed at all times.
- Provide your own lawn chairs or blankets for seating.
- Family groups should stay together.
- Maintain a distance of six feet between yourself and others.
- No handshakes or hugs. Waving is encouraged.
- The building will remain closed. There will be no access to restrooms.
- No Bible classes, Creation Station, or nurseries will be open at this time.
- Please bring communion for yourself and your family.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Instead, online giving is encouraged.

PHASE 2

Tentatively beginning June 14

Explanation

We will return to our schedule of 8:15 and 10:45 am Sunday worship in the auditorium, as well as Fellowship Central (and additional rooms as needed) as overflow rooms. This way, all attendees can experience and participate in the same worship. This simplified plan allows greater flexibility and scalability as our members return to worship at the building over the coming weeks and months. We can add rooms and time slots as needed.

We will stream the 8:15 service live to YouTube; that video will then be available to access anytime afterwards. We may begin streaming the 10:45 service as well at some point in the future.

We will not yet have any classes at 9:35.

Worship Options and Rotations

Members who wish to attend can select between 8:15 and 10:45. However, to ensure we respect social distancing and capacity limits, we will ask our adult classes to rotate sitting in Fellowship Central about once a month, and that schedule will be coordinated through our education ministry and class hosts. Extended family units spanning multiple classes, guests, or those who are unsure of their class membership are welcome to sit in either room.

Note on seniors and other vulnerable members

While our seniors and vulnerable/at-risk members continue to stay home and worship via livestream, our staff and elders will discuss ways to serve these important members of our church.

Guidelines

- We will continue to provide online worship for those who should not attend in person and for those who are more comfortable staying at home.
- If you have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have been exposed to someone who does, please stay home.
- We encourage our most vulnerable church family members to continue to worship from home.
- All staff and volunteers will be wearing masks, except when presenting from the stage.

- The CDC recommends mask wearing to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others ([source](#)). While mask wearing will not be enforced, we ask everyone who is able to wear a mask to please do so.
- Room capacities will be limited. We will use every other pew or row so social distancing can be observed during the service. Available rows will be marked, and we will alternate rows used between services so that the seats used at 8:15 are not the ones used at 10:45.
- Social distancing guidelines should be observed at all times.
- We ask that you come straight to a seat and that you exit the building as soon as worship is over. If you choose to socialize with others from a safe social distance, please do so in the parking lots.
- Family groups should stay together.
- Maintain a distance of six feet between yourself and others.
- No handshakes or hugs. Waving is encouraged.
- Additional hand-sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the building. Please wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer often.
- All traffic areas will be thoroughly sanitized between services, including high-touch surfaces.
- No Bible classes, Creation Station, or nurseries will be open at this time.
- No water fountains will be open or usable, and restroom use is discouraged except for emergencies.
- No coffee or food will be available, nor should food or drink be brought into the building.
- Communion will take place at the very end of our worship and will be coordinated in such a way as to minimize exposure.
- Offering plates will not be passed. Instead, online giving is encouraged and there will be offering boxes near the doors of the auditorium.
- All seatback materials, papers, pens, songbooks, and Bibles will be removed.