

Covid-19 Continuity of Ministries Plan

"Continuity of Ministries Plan"

Our church Covid Committee has continued to meet every-other-week via video conference. We are thankful for the congregation praying for us as we recognize the need for wisdom from God. Here is the latest update on how our church will seek to maintain "continuity of ministries," in various formats in order to meet the circumstances and convictions that our congregation may have. We will continue to watch the health situation in our community and the relevant regulations of the government, keeping the congregation informed as needed. If necessary or prudent to return to a more stringent scenario, we will do so. If things continue to remain stable or improve, as is permissible and prudent, we will also remove any unneeded protocols.

SPF - We continue seeking to balance – Safety, Proactivity, Flexibility – SPF – Recognizing that given the very widely differing perspectives on the Covid situation within our church, any decision that we make will not be perfectly satisfactory to everyone. This is an opportunity for us all to live out the grace of the Gospel with one another and to "consider others better than ourselves" (Phil 2). If we approach the situation in this fashion, even if we disagree, we can glorify God in that disagreement and come out stronger as the body of Christ in the future.

ARTICLES – We encourage all receiving this message to read the following. You may find them helpful for applying the Gospel amidst the differing perspectives we undoubtedly have within our church body and also understanding why, for those not vulnerable, our church leadership has decided we should resume onsite worship.

["Don't Let Coronavirus Divide"](#)

["Why Don't We See Church as 'Essential'"](#)

["What we are Missing when we are Missing Church"](#)

FEEDBACK – We want to thank the congregation for all the helpful feedback that we

have received and especially from those staff and church officer families who attended this last Sunday for onsite worship, to help us evaluate our protocols.

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES - Our first goal for "continuity of ministries" is to continue to offer the best possible online Sunday worship experience and, as needed, video conference "groups," for our congregation in the upcoming months. All content can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/crosscreekchurchchannel>. We have made a great deal of progress and are investing time, resources and staff to that end. We continue to hope that this will be a season of growth for all in our church body through putting ourselves, best that we can online, in the way of the means of grace. In so doing we desire for each household in our church to fully avail themselves of these means weekly as we "Grow in Truth, Live in Community and Serve in God's Kingdom."

ONSITE WORSHIP SERVICES – Our second goal for "continuity of ministries" has been to wisely prepare for allowing any who choose to participate in worship physically and are willing to social distance, **with a mask on**, to do so. We believe the time to begin that is **this Sunday May 31, with our 8:45 am worship service**. In determining this date, rather than an earlier one, we have taken into account feedback from our congregation and the most recent recommendations from the Jefferson County Health Director (since our region of the state has been more impacted than others). This has also allowed us to take the additional precaution of seeing how things progressed in our region throughout May. In the same way that some feel strongly it may not be the best time to return to onsite worship, we recognize that a number in our congregation feel equally strongly that they are ready to do so. In all that we do we are seeking to align with both the [CDC recommendations](#) for churches and those from the [state of Alabama](#). The facility will be cleaned and sanitized each week, and presently no large groups are using it outside of Sunday morning. When Lake Crest Church resumes their worship, likely June 7, we will arrange a team to sanitize after our service.

For any planning to attend, please carefully read the following:

1) Sick? - If you have Covid, think you have it, have been around someone recently who has it, or have a fever or other Covid symptoms, you should stay at home. Go [here](#) to

review CDC summary.

2) Vulnerable - if you have preexisting conditions or are 65 or over, we recommend you not attend at this time. However, that is for each person to decide and we certainly will not prevent anyone from coming. Go [here](#) for more information on who is considered vulnerable.

3) Masks – At this point we are requiring masks for all those old enough to safely and properly wear one as long as you are in the building. Those on stage may take theirs off. Our Covid committee has not discussed what age range of children should wear them but I would suggest that any old enough to to keep it on should wear it. This is not fun but for the time being necessary.

4) Surfaces - We recommend not touching anything at the church facility other than your chair, if you can help it. See below for information on Communion. Offering trays will be in the back so we will not pass those, nor the worship registry.

5) Seating - The seat rows are spaced 6 ft apart (front to back) but left to right we leave it to you to keep a minimum of 4 chairs between households. Even if you are fine with being closer, others may not be.

6) Ventilation - The HVAC system has worked fine holding a cool temperature the past few “test” Sundays. We have a box fan available for use at the back corner door with the front door propped open in order to pull continuous fresh air through the building as needed. (Per state recommendations.)

7) Cameras - Since the live streaming is going to continue, please try not to walk in front of the camera.

Additional information for Families with Little Children to consider as they make whatever decision they feel is best on when to choose to return to onsite worship.

FAMILIES WITH LITTLE CHILDREN - We included in our phases document advice of caution for those that the CDC designates “vulnerable” (the elderly and those with preexisting conditions) and also our plans to account for the safety of our young ones by holding off on any nursery or children’s church plans for the time being. Since this presents a logistical challenge for affected parents, we invite them to simply let us know at whatever point they choose to return to physical worship and also when they are comfortable with resuming a nursery or children’s church. In the meantime, we are prepared with the following solutions and are happy to support these families by implementing them, including:

- Family tables in the back of our worship space
- Designated classrooms, one per household, if helpful for one or both parents to give a child a break
- Available outside space, if helpful for one or both parents to give a child a break
- Just one parent attend with an older child

Additional information on our Communion plans.

COMMUNION - All communion for the upcoming months will be from pre-packaged kits sealed in the production facility. For people that choose to resume physical worship with us, they can use the kit that will be placed in advance on seats/tables. Beginning soon, we also plan to provide two extra options for receiving communion every 3 weeks. We believe this is a means of grace, so we want to offer it for any who desire. First, those that desire elders to bring it to their home - a blessing we are delighted to provide - they can use a signup genius link we will send out in the Creek Week on communion “weeks”. Secondly, on those same weeks, anyone is welcome to drive up to our worship location during the 15 minutes after our service concludes and take a kit from tables that will be placed outside the building.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – We will continue to offer weekly pre-recorded lessons for all life stages in our church through our Youtube channel. We will not resume meeting onsite for

Sunday school at this time.

YOUTH AND CHILDRENS MINISTRIES – Stay tuned for communications from our various staff about plans for resuming physical meetings with social distancing as is prudent.

DRIVE-IN SERVICES – Based on feedback, at least 1/3 of our congregation may not be back for onsite Sunday worship in the near future. So, we plan to continue offering evening drive-in services every few weeks using our FM-transmitter with several songs and a short message from Scripture. The next drive-in will be Thursday, June 4 at 7 pm.

Questions or comments for our committee can be sent to info@crosscreekchurch.net.

Thanks so much.