

REOPENING THE ORCHARD

We're looking forward to being able to worship together again, but want to make sure we do everything we can to provide a safe experience for all who attend.

As we move toward reopening the church, love each other well. Some will think we should be worshipping in-person now. Others will think it is too soon when we do start. Some will want to worship together, but will be unable to for some reason. Your participation is a matter of Christian liberty in this case. Beware of becoming an accidental Pharisee and imposing your conscience and your view of the situation onto each other as the law of God rather than what it is, simply your conscience. Instead, accept one another as Christ has accepted you. Love one another through different views.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT REOPENING?

Pay attention to the CDC Guidelines

- If you're sick or have had close contact with someone with COVID-19, stay home.
- Persons 65 years of age and older and those with underlying medical conditions are at greater risk should they contract the virus and therefore should take extra precautions. During early stages of reopening church, the guidelines recommend that such individuals should continue to shelter in place. We leave such decisions about whether to attend in-person worship to each individual. We will not restrict registration to those 65+, nor will we check IDs at the door, or turn away anyone who we know is over that age.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Wear masks when you leave your home and are unable to practice social distancing.

Prior to attending

- At this time, worship services are limited to 50 or fewer. To accommodate the size restriction, we'll be adding worship services for many of our congregations. We also want to have ample time to clean between services, so each service for the near term will be scheduled two hours apart.
- In order to make sure our services don't surpass 50 people, we're going to ask that everyone REGISTER for the service of your choice. We anticipate that many of our services will fill up, so it's important that you register as soon as you're able. We'll add services as need to make sure we accommodate everyone who wants to attend a worship service in person. You'll receive the link to register in the Wednesday email from your pastor each week.

In the facility

- Pay attention to signage. Not all areas of the building will be open.
- Practice social distancing by keeping six feet between you and those who don't live in your house.
- Volunteers and staff will be required to wear masks and it is recommended that everyone else wears masks as well.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the building. Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands regularly.

In the worship services

- Enter rows using the aisles as directed and move to the center.
- Keep six feet or three seats between you and those who aren't part of your household.

- Nothing will be passed (bulletins, connection card, offering). Download our app (Text “TOC APP” to 77977 to download) to give and fill out the connection card. You’ll also be able to give using offering boxes as you exit the worship center/sanctuary or by mail.
- Communion will be available pre-packaged. There is not a gluten-free option available at this time.

Other things to know

- In the early stages of reopening, our weekend ministry will be worship only. No other programs will be offered.
- The worship service will continue to be available online. The Orchard Online will be available through the homepage of our website, YouTube, and The Orchard’s Facebook page. We may not be sending an email each week, so make sure you know where to find it.
- Given that the weather facilitates meeting outside, feel free to have your LIFE Group gather in-person at a home. If you have at-risk folks in your group, you might want to keep meeting via Zoom so as not to exclude them. If you’re unsure about whether you should gather in person, talk to your pastor.
- Many staff will be returning to the church in early June with limited office hours. Though staff will be in the building, there is no current plan for other ministries to meet in the facilities.