

Hope Christian Church - Re-Opening Plan – Phase 2

June 12, 2020

I. Worship Service Guidelines

A. Attending Worship

1. The number of people attending the service is limited by both the permitted occupancy of the sanctuary and social distancing guidelines. Therefore, the number of families interested in attending and the size of each family will determine how many people we can fit in the space on a weekly basis.
2. Attendance for our first service on May 31 will be accomplished using online registration by family. If our capacity has been filled by the time you sign up, you will be notified. Moving forward, online registration will take place weekly and we will manage it as best as we can to ensure a fair scheduling of all who wish to attend.
3. You can use the link provided in the e-mail to register to attend. Registration must be completed by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the service.
4. Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. as usual. Note that 9:00 a.m. Sunday School will not be resuming under the phase 1 re-opening.

B. Children

1. Children are welcome to attend worship with their family if parents feel they will be engaged enough to sit through the service. During this phase of our re-opening plan, children's church and nursery care are unable to resume. Therefore, children must stay with parents at all times.
2. An online children's church video will still be made available on Sunday morning by e-mail. If children are using devices with headphones during the service please get them set-up before the service begins. If problems arise during the service with your child using the device be aware of the distraction this may cause to you and those around you. We will keep you updated as soon as we are able to offer nursery care and children's church on Sunday mornings.
3. The prayer room and designated rooms in the office area are open and available for nursing mothers.

C. General Health and Safety

1. In preparation for worship, our facility has been both cleaned and sanitized. During the service we will open exterior doors as well as windows in the sanctuary and lobby for increased air circulation.
2. Prior to arriving please assess your well-being. The online registration for attending will give you some questions to consider to help you discern this. We are not collecting answers to these questions. Please take your temperature prior to arriving. We will not be taking your temperature on site. If you are not feeling well please stay home.
3. Be aware of and try to avoid high touch surfaces if possible: door handles, railings, and bathroom fixtures. Of course we do not want you to risk slipping and falling, but we are asking that you please be aware of the high touch nature of these surfaces and avoid touching your face afterwards.

4. Door handles and high touch surfaces will be wiped down as necessary through the duration of the service.
5. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be available prior to entering and exiting the sanctuary. You are welcome to bring your own sanitizing supplies if you wish. Please dispose of wipes, tissues, or other trash in the lobby.

D. Face Coverings

Note: During the initial part of our phase 1 re-opening we have chosen to take a more conservative approach regarding face coverings. We recognize that if a 6-foot distance is maintained the state order allows face coverings to be removed indoors. However, for several reasons we are choosing to apply a more cautious standard:

- Some studies suggest that singing within a large group increases the risk of spreading the virus beyond the 6-foot separation distance.
- A decision to remove face coverings once seated may result in the exclusion of other brothers and sisters in Christ who for reasons of good conscience would feel more comfortable if all are required to wear face coverings, especially during this initial phase of larger group gatherings.
- It is still too early in the re-opening process to be able to assess transmission trends that result from the re-assembly of larger groups.
- If an outbreak were to occur within our membership, while this would be devastating to us as a community, we could take some solace that we had proceeded with some extra caution to keep our church family safe.

As we move further into the re-opening process we will continually evaluate our approach regarding face coverings. Thank you for your understanding and patience with our current practice.

1. Children younger than 2 years old should not wear a face covering.
2. For children between 2 and 5 years old, face coverings are at the discretion of the parent.
3. Face coverings are required for all adults and children 6 years and older.
4. If you have a medical exemption for not wearing a face covering please notify us prior to arriving. You are not required to provide documentation.
5. Face coverings only need to be worn during the congregational singing portion of the service, whether standing or sitting. As long as you remain seated, face coverings are optional during the non-singing parts of the service (i.e. announcements, Scripture reading, sermon, etc.). Please continue to wear face coverings when entering and exiting the building and while away from your seat.
6. Face coverings are not required for members of the worship team while they are singing or playing and for individuals as they address the entire congregation (i.e. announcements, Scripture reading, sermon, etc.)
7. Please do not dispose of face coverings in the building.

E. Arrival

1. Make sure to use the restroom at home prior to arriving. Church restrooms are available but use will be limited.
2. Plan to arrive early. Entry into the building may take a bit longer due to distancing requirements and the time it takes to get everyone seated.
3. When you park your car, please leave one empty space between vehicles if possible.
4. Enter the building only through the front door. The handicapped ramp and door will be available for those who need it. Please notify us if you will need assistance.
5. Observe the 6-foot social distancing tape lines on the sidewalk, building entrance, and within the building.
6. At this time, we are unable to gather in common areas or serve food or beverages before or after the service. Please do not bring any outside food or beverages into the building.

F. During the Service

1. Seating arrangements in the sanctuary will include clusters of chairs spaced out to meet social distancing requirements. A member of the welcome team will guide your family to your seats.
2. Attendees who are not a part of the same immediate household must sit at least 6-feet apart. Members of the same immediate household are permitted to sit together in seating that is less than 6-feet apart.
3. Connection cards and pens will not be available. Please contact the staff with any ministry needs by e-mail. You are welcome to bring your own Bible, notebook, and pen.

G. Dismissal

1. Please remain seated until your section of the room is called to exit the sanctuary.
2. Offerings may be placed in the drop boxes as you exit the sanctuary. Online giving or mailing your offering is highly encouraged.
3. If you need prayer after the service please contact one of our prayer team members or elders directly. A slide with their contact information will be shown after the service. For now, we are available to pray for you over the phone. As we move further into the re-opening process we will discern how to best resume in-person prayer after the service. Please also take advantage of our Tuesday night prayer Zoom call.
4. Please follow social distancing guidelines in common outdoor spaces such as the parking lot and sidewalks around the building. Remember the parking lot belongs to the town and is not church property. Be aware there may be others using the lot and sidewalks around the church. Recognize the importance of how our actions in these public spaces around our building reflect on the church.
5. Please do not congregate on the field behind the church after the service. While outside social gatherings fall under different guidelines, the field outside the church is private property. Church use of this field is subject to specific application and approval.

6. If you are diagnosed with COVID-19 and have recently attended a Sunday service please notify one of the elders immediately. We are required to notify Winchester's Board of Health Director such that contact tracing can be facilitated.