



## **Reopening Plan Marion Road Christian Church**

Church leadership has been working hard to ensure that we can reopen in a way that is safe and in line with current guidelines from the Department of Health and the CDC. After much prayer, research, and discussion, we are aiming to restart in-person services on **June 28, 2020**. While we look forward to having people in the building again, things will look different, at least for the first few Sundays. This document aims to explain how we are going to go about reopening, from the week before to the week after.

We understand that many will not feel comfortable entering into the building right away, and we want to emphasize that we completely understand if you have made that decision. Further, if you have symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, we ask that you stay home and participate online as well. We will continue to live stream the worship service and want those who do not attend in-person to still feel as connected as possible. If you are not comfortable coming to the building but are healthy, we encourage you to gather with others and participate in the online service in a small group setting.

No matter how you participate in worship with us over the coming weeks, we ask that you would continue to pray for the congregation and leadership as we try to navigate this situation. We also ask that we would all be gracious with those with differing opinions on how to handle this situation for themselves. Our goal as a church leadership is to act in a way that is wise and safe for all who might enter the building.

For those who do attend in-person, here is what the service will look like.

### **Before Sunday**

Everyone that plans on attending on Sunday needs to reserve a spot ahead of time. This is so that we can have an idea for how many people to expect, ensure that we are remaining within guidelines, and in a worst-case scenario, conduct contact tracing as quickly as possible if there is a risk of exposure. For those who do not have access to reserve a spot ahead of time, we will have someone at the front door to make sure we get their name recorded so that our numbers are accurate. We will make this form available over email, and send reminders throughout the week.

### **Sunday**

#### Entering Building

Everyone in the building over the age of 2 who is not on stage will need to be masked. Even those on stage will only take their mask off while they are on stage. For those who do not have masks, we will have some on hand at the door that can be kept after the service is over.

To minimize the amount of cleaning that needs to be done, we are asking that everyone come in and out of the building through the main front doors. **Even if you have a building key, we ask that you enter the building through the main doors.**

Greeters will be at the front door to welcome people and see if they need a mask or to be registered. If they need a mask, they will be sent to Isaac at the welcome center. The front doors will be propped open to increase air circulation and ensure people are not touching the handles.

Pre-packaged communion will be placed out on tables in the fellowship hall that can be picked up as you enter into the sanctuary. Everyone will then hold their communion elements until time for us to take it as one body.

Ushers will be at the entrance to the sanctuary to make sure people entering have picked up communion and direct them towards seats.

We will not be able to do any children's programming right away. So, for those of you with children, we ask that you keep your children under 10 with you at all times, even if they go to the bathroom so that we can protect one another as best as possible.

For the short term, we will not have coffee or rolls available before the service.

The water fountains in the fellowship hall will be closed.

Bathrooms will be open, but we ask that there only be two people in the bathrooms at a time, to promote social distancing. Bathrooms will be regularly disinfected. Due to the short amount of time, we will be in the building, we hope bathrooms will be used as little as possible.

Households can sit together during the service, with at least two seats between each household, to promote social distancing. We have removed every other row of chairs in the sanctuary for this purpose as well.

Chairs will also be set up in the fellowship hall to provide more space and seating.

### Worship Service

When we began online services, we shortened our service from normal, and we are going to shorten the service even more as we reopen. This is not a permanent decision but is being done so that we can gather together safely.

No plates will be passed during the service. Communion will be picked up on entrance into the sanctuary, and offering plates will be placed out. As we have been doing, anyone who wants to give online or by mail is more than welcome.

We are increasing air circulation to diminish the risk of infection. With this, our security team will still be working to ensure that we are not sacrificing safety.

Classrooms will be available for isolation rooms if someone becomes symptomatic while they are in the building. The nursery will be available, but will not be staffed.

### Exiting the Building

At the conclusions of the service, ushers will dismiss everyone by rows, similar to a wedding or funeral. This is to help everyone get out of the building as easily as possible.

While we cannot allow people to linger in the building at the end of the service, anyone who wishes to visit in the parking lot after the service is more than welcome.

### **After Sunday**

We are taking extra precautions during the week to ensure our facilities remain safe and sanitary.

In a worst-case scenario, we ask that anyone who begins to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 within three days of Sunday to reach out to the church by phone or email so that we can let everyone who was in the building on Sunday know as quickly as possible.

### **Other Information**

We cannot pull this off on our own. If you have volunteered in any of the areas mentioned above or would like to be involved, let us know so that we can have all of these areas covered.

Our goal is to have a worship service while doing everything we can to be safe. No changes at this point are permanent but are in the interest of limiting the possibility of exposure COVID-19.

**If you have additional questions or concerns**, please contact one of our staff members or elders.