



Reopen FAQ's

Q: When can I return to church?

A: June 21 at 8:15am or 10:30am

Q: Are all ages welcome to return?

A: Yes. However, those aged 60+, vulnerable population, and immune-compromised folks will be encouraged to worship on-line as [per recommendations from NE DHHS and CDC](#).

Q: Because we can only use about 25% of our seating, will I be asked to leave if we reach capacity?

A: Overflow space has been created for both services to accommodate this need. Based upon the survey responses regarding people's desire to return to on-campus services at this time, we believe we have the capacity to meet the current need.

Q: Have you considered doing outdoor or drive-up services?

A: Yes. We intend to do some outdoor services throughout the summer and fall.

Q: Are children required to sit with their families?

A: Yes. There will be no nursery or Explorers.

Q: How are you training volunteers?

A: We are taking two weekends to intentionally train volunteer teams prior to the official reopen on June 21. We ask that everyone be respectful and kind towards our volunteers as they give you very specific direction while on campus.

Q: Will I be required to wear a mask?

A: Masks are not required but strongly encouraged as per local and federal health recommendations for any public gathering and out of consideration for other worshipper's health.

Q: Will temperature checks be required?

A: No

Q: Will hand sanitizer be easily accessible?

A: Yes. Hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout the traffic flow areas.

Q: Can I sing out loud?

A: People in attendance will be encouraged to sing from their hearts or hum softly. Singing is known to dramatically increase aerosolized viral particle production and several outbreaks of COVID-19 have been linked to singing. However, there have been frequent changes to this guidance, and we will evaluate and monitor this recommendation prior to our reopen on June 21.

Q: Can I just enter any door?

A: Greeters will be outside to direct you to the appropriate entry point for your service.

Q: Are there restrictions to areas of the building?

A: Yes, greeters and floor signs will direct you to the proper traffic flow for each service.

Q: Will there be donuts and coffee?

A: No =(

Q: Will you have masks available if I forget mine?

A: Yes

Q: Will restrooms be available?

A: Yes. However, restrooms near the Worship Center will be the only ones available due to the need for restroom monitors and cleaning demands.

Q: Will water fountains be available?

A: No. Bottles of water will be available

Q: Will the Info and Welcome Centers be open?

A: There will be a welcome tent available outside of the building to meet these needs.

Q: What type of chairs will be used?

A: We will continue to use current cloth chairs for the following two reasons:

1. With only one service in each worship space, there is no immediate need for cleaning. If either space is needed for overflow, coverings will be placed on any used chairs prior to seating.
2. Coronaviruses are actually known to survive on harder surfaces like plastic better than softer/absorbent surfaces like cloth.²

250 Plastic chairs will be staged for overflow purposes and will be put to the side for sanitizing ones used.

Q: When will the facility be cleaned?

A: During the week after services. In addition, once services are complete within each worship center, worship spaces are closed off and will be cleaned and sanitized during the week. If another event occurs in the worship spaces during the week, cleaning and sanitizing will be done as the Facility Manager deems appropriate to be ready for the next use. In addition, we have purchased a fogging machine due to arrive in early August which may significantly help in the cleaning process especially for porous and absorbent surfaces that cannot be easily wiped.

Q: What happens if someone becomes sick while at worship?

A: Anyone who feels ill is requested to speak with an usher who will take you to our designated Health Safety Room where a trained volunteer will assist you with next steps.

Q: How will baptisms be handled during June and July?

A: Baptisms will be scheduled and conducted individually.

Q: What will this experience be like? It sounds really different.

A: Yes, it is going to be different. We suggest that if you plan to come back for on-campus worship, you set your expectations to enjoy the purity of the worship service alone.

Q: I am not sure what to do. I don't feel it is safe to be in crowds, but I will feel guilty if I stay home.

A: If you are not comfortable being in crowds, please stay home. If you are looking for ways connect with others, please contact lisa.witkop@thanksgiving.church and she will be happy to help.

Q: How do I stay up-to-date on church communications?

A: We have multiple ways we are communicating. Here are our recommendations:

1. Opt in to our weekly emails by emailing tracy.townsend@thanksgiving.church
2. Visit the COVID page on our website: <http://thanksgiving.church/covid-19/>
3. Join our church [Facebook Group](#).

Q: How can I help?

A: We are glad you asked. We have multiple new volunteer needs including sanitizing and cleaning teams, worship support teams and worship technical arts. Training is provided for all. For the Worship Technical Arts there will be a training on Saturday, June 20 for camera operators, along with media and audio volunteers. To learn more about those positions, please click [here](#). All other opportunities, please contact Connections Director, [Lisa Witkop](#).