

Reopening Guidelines

Biblical Context - 1 Peter 5.7-11 (The Inclusive Bible)

Cast all your cares on God, who cares for you. Be sober. Be watchful. For your adversary the Devil roams about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Stand up to the Devil as one strong in faith, fortified with the knowledge that your sisters and brothers throughout the world share the same afflictions.

But the God of all grace, who called you to eternal glory through Jesus Christ, will fulfill, restore, strengthen and establish you after you have suffered a little while. To God be glory and dominion forever and ever! Amen.

These guidelines follow the Northern Kentucky Health Department's reports for declining COVID-19 cases. Those who live in other counties should self-monitor and make their best judgement for when they should come to in-person worship. Links to all counties where we have congregants will be published in The e-Weekly to monitor decline of cases. The decision to move between phases will be recommended by the Re-Forming Team and approved by the Strategic Leadership Council (SLC).

These guidelines follow the following resources:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work>

<http://www.heartlanducc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Heartland-Conference-Guidelines-for-Regathering-for-Worship-May-15-2020.pdf>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

<https://nkyhealth.org/individual-or-family/health-alerts/coronavirus/>

Phase 1: 4 Weeks of Declining COVID-19 cases

1. In-person worship can begin.
 - a. Encourage those at high-risk to worship online.
 - b. Distancing, temperature/health checks, face masks, etc. required.
2. Singing will not be allowed during this phase. That includes choir, soloist, congregational singing. Instrumental music will be allowed except for wind instruments.
3. Keeping in mind the physical distancing and handling of high touch items, there will not be pew materials (bible, hymnal, etc.), welcome table, passing of the peace (handshake, hugs, etc.), or passing the offering plate.
4. Communion may be celebrated without the use of bread and wine/juice.

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5. Listening devices will be assigned to regular attendees, so they are always using the same one.
 - a. Regular attendees will sanitize their own and put in a bag with their name.
 - b. Ushers will sanitize devices used by guests.
6. Non-medicinal food or beverage will not be allowed.
7. We will all enter and exit the sanctuary without lingering.
8. There will not be any children's ministry or nursery during this phase. Parents are encouraged to attend worship with their children or continue watching the online services.
9. Little Free Library is closed at this time.
10. The church building will only be open to the public for worship on Sunday, with the only open spaces being the sanctuary and main floor restrooms, and lounge if needed for traffic flow.
 - a. No meetings or building rentals, bible study, council meetings, rehearsals, etc.
 - b. No weddings or funerals.
 - c. Office open for staff but no in-person meetings, except for online worship service recording.
 - i. Pastor to use discretion for one-on-one meetings
 - ii. Please do not drop things off at the church until otherwise notified (rummage sale, etc.)
 - d. Follow all directional/informational signage. All are required to use specified entrances and exits based on your ability.
11. Ushers will perform health checks at door.
 - a. A script will be provided for ushers to use from Healthy at Work resource.
 - b. Ushers will check that no outside food/drink is coming in.
 - c. Take temperature; be sure all have masks on over nose and mouth.
 - d. Direct attendees to follow all entrance and exit signage and other necessary signage.
12. If COVID-19 cases are no longer declining, or if someone in the congregation contracts the virus the building will be closed.

Phase 2: 8 Weeks of Declining COVID-19 cases

1. Continue in-person worship
 - a. Encourage those at high-risk to worship online.

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- b. Distancing, temperature checks, face masks, etc. required.
2. Limited singing. Still no choir, but the following are allowed:
 - a. Soloist or wind instrument from the altar.
 - b. Congregational singing may be used.
3. Keeping in mind the physical distancing and handling of high touch items, there will not be pew materials (bible, hymnal, etc.), welcome table, passing of the peace (handshake, hugs, etc.), or passing the offering plate.
4. Communion may be celebrated without the use of bread and wine/juice.
5. Listening devices will be assigned to regular attendees, so they are always using the same one.
 - a. Regular attendees will sanitize their own and put in a bag with their name.
 - b. Ushers will sanitize devices used by guests.
6. Non-medicinal food or beverage will not be allowed.
7. We will all enter and exit the sanctuary without lingering.
8. There will not be any children's ministry or nursery during this phase. Parents are encouraged to attend worship with their children or continue watching the online services.
9. Little Free Library remains closed.
10. Limited in-person meetings may resume, but limited to main floor lounge or sanctuary and must be scheduled with the office.
 - a. Lounge capacity: 6 people, Sanctuary capacity: 40-50.
 - b. No Weddings or funerals.
 - c. Distancing and face masks are required.
 - d. Office open as posted in the e-weekly.
11. Ushers continue to perform health checks and provide direction.
12. If COVID-19 cases are no longer declining, or if someone in the congregation contracts the virus, return to previous phase or close building.

Phase 3: Vaccine Developed and Widely Available

1. All in-person church activities may resume.
2. If Covid-19 cases are no longer declining, or if someone in the congregation contracts the virus, return to previous phase or close building.