



WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH!

The leadership of Grace Presbyterian Church is very pleased to welcome our church family back to worshipping together! Our Session's elders, deacons, and ministry staff have worked tirelessly and with great care to present these plans for our return to the church building for on-site services.

While we are thrilled to be back worshipping on-site, we recognize that this virus has not gone away and is still a very real threat, especially to those in high-risk categories. Despite all our efforts to be as safe as possible, gathering together again does carry an increased risk of transmission of COVID-19. If you are at a higher risk as defined by the CDC (*65 or older, those with lung disease, heart conditions, obesity, diabetes, kidney or liver disease, or those that are immunocompromised*), we ask that you would prayerfully consider continuing to worship with us online with the hopes and prayers that you can join us in person soon.

We recognize there are many different, valid approaches that could be taken and believe that our Lord has led us to this plan. After much prayer and consideration for the care and safety of God's people, we strive to honor Him as we begin to gather together in person.

Several principles have guided our plan. First, the health of our people, as well as the honor of the Lord, are being zealously pursued by a very faithful and hard-working pastoral and ministry staff. We care about each of you — especially those who have already struggled with some physical ailment and those who continue to face the ongoing stress and losses of normal life in your employment and home.

Second, we aim to honor Christ's testimony in being a good neighbor in our community. Our continual goal is to raise the beauty of Christ's name through his Body for all generations and all peoples.

In concert with good friends in a number of area churches — all of whom are preparing for re-entry in the next several weeks — we are planning to begin phasing our re-entry on **Father's Day, June 21.**

WHEN WILL WORSHIP SERVICES BE HELD?

Beginning Sunday, June 21, we will offer three different services on Sunday mornings.

8:00 a.m.

indoor service
for 100 people

9:30 a.m.

outdoor service
for an unlimited
number of people
in cars or groups
of 10 or fewer
on the grass

11:00 a.m.

indoor service
for 100 people
and continued
live-streaming

WHAT WILL WORSHIP SERVICES LOOK LIKE?

8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services

- Worship in the sanctuary.
- *Limited to 100 congregants* with appropriate social distancing between family units, guided by ushers (every third row and four empty seats between attendees).
- Social distancing will be groups 10' apart per health guidelines for congregational singing.
- *Pre-register for the services* during the week with online sign-up in order to attend these services (more info on sign-up procedures below).
- You may park in one of the two east lots directly in front of the church. There will be parking attendants to guide you. *[see map]*
- Entrance to the building will be through the main front doors only. You will exit the building at the south doors by the cross tower to maximize sanitation routes. *[see map]*
- Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the start of the service.
- Pastor Bryan and Kevin will be leading the service.
- Both services will feature a children's message.
- The later 11:00 a.m. live-streamed service will also include additional worship team members.
- *Masks are strongly encouraged*, especially during congregational singing. Please remember you are protecting others from transmission.
- Restrooms in the main atrium will be available.
- To assist with cleanliness, the rest of the building will be closed off .
- There will be *no nursery or children's programming*.
- In between these two services, the sanctuary will be cleaned. Please note that the building will be at its cleanest for the 8:00 a.m. service.

9:30 a.m. Service

- This service will take place outdoors in the north parking lot. *[see map]*
- *No limit on attendance* (other than the physical space of the parking lot).
- Pastor Bryan and Kevin will be leading the service.
- A sound system will be set up, and you will also have the opportunity to listen in on the radio at a specified frequency.
- Parking attendants will be coordinating and guiding the parking, utilizing every other parking space.
- If you choose to sit outside your car, we ask that you sit in the empty space on the *passenger side or directly in front of your car* to maintain appropriate distance.
- Feel free to bring lawn chairs or blankets. You may also choose to stay in your car and roll down your windows or listen on the radio.
- There is some seating on the grass just north of the parking lot. *[see map]*
- Because we are outside, masks can be worn at your own discretion.
- Because there will be no video screen outdoors to display lyrics to the worship songs, we will be posting the lyrics for the worship songs on the website and Facebook the Friday before the service. You can print them out at home, or just look at them on your phone/tablet.
- The only accessible restrooms will be those right inside the north canopy entrance. *[see map]*
- We ask that all adults and children exercise *proper social distancing*. For safety and to prevent distraction during the service, the playground will not be open.

HOW DO I PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND A SERVICE INSIDE THE BUILDING?

- We will publish a special signup link online on Monday, June 15, that will include the next four Sundays (June 21, 28, July 5, 12) for both the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.
- On the signup form, please indicate the total number of people coming with you (including infants and children).
- To allow for more people to attend a service inside the building, please sign up for only one service out of the four published dates. (For example, if you sign up for the 8:00 a.m. service on June 28, please do not sign up for any services on June 21, July 5 or 12).
- Those without e-mail addresses may call the church office and ask to be signed up for a particular Sunday and time.
- Once we get into July, we may have more opportunities for more persons to be in the building and will re-evaluate our procedures at that time.

CAN I STILL WATCH THE SERVICE ONLINE?

Yes! The 11:00 a.m. service will continue to be live-streamed. The week-delayed broadcast will also continue at 9:00 a.m. on Channel 25 and WBNH 88.5FM.



Two final thoughts as we consider what it means to be faithful to our Savior in this re-entry process: let's be careful to *take care of one another*, and be mindful of people in *different life situations*. First, to take care of one another we will need to be very understanding of social distancing procedures. For most of us this virus is still hypothetical and unreal. You must know that for some families in this church this virus is *very real*, and over half of those who carry it show no symptoms. We need to be very careful to protect others, even if we do not fear for ourselves.

Second, not everyone is in the same stage of life or the same state of mind. We want those individuals in high-risk groups, and those concerned for themselves or their family members, to feel very welcome to step into re-entry at their own pace without a sense of pressure. There will be many opportunities to gather when you feel comfortable.

As has been the case the past several weeks, we recognize that there may be need to modify these plans going forward. Session elders and staff will continue to evaluate new health guidelines and reports for their suitability for our people and worship.

Your health and safety are very important to us, so please exercise discretion in deciding when to return. **If you are sick, please stay home.** It can be hard knowing that some of the church is gathering again, but we would rather you err on the side of an over-abundance of caution in making your decisions than to take unnecessary risk.

Thank you for your faithful prayers as we continue to navigate these murky waters, knowing that our Heavenly Father is already ahead of us, clearing the path!

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