



Regathering Plan

Updated May 31, 2020

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Introduction

Throughout this coronavirus crisis, we have sought to maintain a level of ministry, striving to continue our mission to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the glory of God. Through the preaching and teaching ministries of our church, as well as regular encouragement to stay connected with one another, I believe we have seen God's blessings even in these difficult times.

As we prepare to regather for church services, I believe it is important that we keep several Bible principles and commands in mind:

- **We are to love one another - 1 John 3:11.** Since we love and care for our church family and those in our community, we should be willing to take precautions to keep those we love safe—even if it means setting aside our rights for a time.
- **We are to regularly gather for worship and ministry and we are to submit to governmental authorities - Hebrews 10:25; Romans 13.** I praise the Lord that our state is now lifting restrictions and that recent guidance allows us to maintain a good testimony in our community as we regather, as well as be safe and cautious.
- **We are to treat each other with humility, exercising forbearance and maintaining unity - Ephesians 4:1-3.** With this in mind, those who choose to wait and stay at home, viewing our services online—I support that decision. And those who choose to regather—I support that decision as well. All that I ask is that we work through this time together, loving and encouraging one another.

Please take time to read through this Plan thoroughly and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Pastor De Leon

Overview

General Guidelines

- **Our Regathering plan will move forward in 3 Phases.** While there is no set timing as to when we will move from one phase to another, we will monitor the recommendations from the governor's office.
- **Those who feel ill or have a temperature should not attend.**
- **Elderly individuals or those with serious underlying health conditions** should consider waiting to attend until Phase 2.
- While not mandatory, you may consider wearing a **face covering**.
- Talk to your children and remind them that our church service will be a bit different and that they should **avoid physical contact** with others.
- Please **help us plan** by responding to our RSVP email before noon on Friday.

Overview

Consulted Resources

- **Guidance from the White House’s “Opening Up America Again”** - [whitehouse.gov/openingamerica](https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica)
- **Guidance from Responsible RestartOhio and the current Director’s Stay Safe Ohio Order** - coronavirus.ohio.gov
- **Communication with the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department** - zmchd.org
- **Recommendations to Churches from Dr. Jack Butterfield, Safety Officer** - 5/18/20 Update - zmchd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/MC-COVID-19-Cases-35-37-Update-5-18-20.pdf
- **Communication with Jennifer Lyle, Mayor of New Concord**
- **COVID-19 Suggested Church Reopening Guidelines** issued by the Christian Law Association.

Overview

Preparation of Our Facilities

- The auditorium, restrooms, and entry way will be deep cleaned and all door handles, and high-touch services will be **thoroughly disinfected**.
- **The Lower-level will be closed during Phase 1**, except for the Nursery and Kindergarten Classrooms for mothers to use for changing diapers. Only one family is allowed in a room at a time. Restrooms will also be available if needed.
- **Hand sanitizer** will be made available throughout the building.
- **Doors will be propped open** where feasible and hymnals will be removed.
- An **offering box** will be placed at the back of the auditorium to receive tithes and offerings.

Phase 1

Guidelines

- **We will gather for Sunday Morning Worship at the normal time of 10 am.** Childcare will not be available and there will be no Growth Point service. We will not have an orchestra.
- **Both Men's and Women's Connection Groups will continue meeting via Zoom.** And the Elementary lesson will be available online. Times and links are available at lighthousebaptist.life/upcoming. Wednesday Prayer meetings will also continue as a Zoom meeting.
- For those attending the Sunday Morning Worship, **families will wait outside in their vehicles until led to their seats by an usher.** Families will sit together and have adequate separation between household units.
- When in the building, **we will follow the recommended social distancing guidelines** and refrain from hand shaking and hugs. Children must stay with their parents at all times.
- **Masks or face coverings are welcome to be worn but are not required.**
- There will be no access to coffee or snacks and the water station will be closed. **Bottled water will be provided.**

Phase 2

Guidelines

- **We will resume all regular Services & Meetings** as follows:
 - **Sunday Morning Worship at 10 am, in-person and online.** No childcare will be provided at this time.
 - **Men's & Women's Connection Groups will meet at 11:30 am in-person,** with teens and children staying with one of their parents. Men will gather in the lower level and ladies will remain in the auditorium.
 - **Growth Point Service online.**
 - **Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study at 7 pm, in-person and online** (via private link).
- **Families are asked to socially distance as they enter the church building,** and to sit together. While in the building, **please continue to refrain from hand shaking and hugs.** Children should stay with their parents at all times.
- **Masks or face coverings are welcome to be worn but are not required.**
- There will be **no access to coffee or snacks** and the water station will be closed.

Guidelines

- To Be Announced

Phase 3

FAQ

- **What if I choose to stay at home and continue to watch the services online?** You are welcome to do so and we will make the Morning Service available online no later than 1 pm on Sundays.
- **Do I have to wear a mask?** No, as of May 2020 there is no law requiring individuals to wear masks.
- **Do we need to sit as a family/household?** Yes, to maximize social distancing, we are asking all households to remain together at all times.
- **Will there be childcare?** No childcare is provided during Phase 1.
- **Will I have a place to go if my child needs a break?** Yes, parents may use either the Nursery or Kindergarten room in the Lower-level
- **Why do we need to RSVP?** RSVPing helps us assure that we will have adequate space for social distancing and allows us to prepare seating for your household.
- **What is the timeframe for when we will move from one phase to another?** There is no set date for moving from one phase to another. We will continue to monitor the guidance from state and local governments, as well as our county health department to make decisions going forward.