

Grace Community CRC
In-Person Service Guidelines for COVID-19

The Council of Grace Community Church developed guidelines and precautions needed for in-person worship during the corona virus pandemic. Our aim as a Council is to ensure the safety of our congregation. Considering local, state, and federal guidelines, the Council presents the following safety measures we deem necessary to ensure that we can worship together in the most secure and healthy way.

What Do I Do Before Coming to Worship?

Each one coming to the building to worship must take responsibility to promote a healthy worship environment. The Council asks that before coming to worship, you:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Please use the restroom at home to minimize restroom use in the building.
3. Please do self-screening at home, including temperature and/or symptom checks using CDC guidelines. Those guidelines are found on our church website.
4. Bring a mask. If you don't have a mask, we will give you a mask. Masks are required to be worn in the church building.
5. Please park in the main parking lot and use ONLY the northwest double doors to enter the church building. All other doors will be locked.
6. Allow extra time to enter the building as there will be screening of all who enter.

Is it safe for me to attend worship?

Providing a safe, healthy environment is our utmost concern in these guidelines. We trust that following these guidelines will provide a place where you can worship at ease of mind. However, we will be "live streaming" the service and making the audio available for you to use at home if either of the following applies to you:

1. If you or a family member has been sick in the last 14 days, we ask that you stay home and participate through the live stream online as found on our church website.
2. Some members are at higher risk in relation to COVID-19. We encourage you to remain at home and watch the live stream online through the website. This includes: a. Those who are immune-compromised. b. Those with underlying health conditions c. Our senior members. d. Those who are uncomfortable gathering in large groups.

What can I expect in the building?

1. Your temperature will be checked as you enter the building.
2. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building. You are also encouraged to bring your own for your convenience.
3. The water fountain will be unavailable at the church. We encourage you to bring a water bottle with you.

4. Keep the family together as much as possible. Families should arrive at church together and sit together.
5. Keep social distance. As you greet others, refrain from handshakes, hugs, etc. Floor markings will be used to help remind you of proper social distancing of six feet.
6. There will be NO nursery or children's church.
7. All classrooms, including the library and prayer room will be closed.
8. Ushers will be seating you. Pews are marked with blue tape to indicate appropriate social distance. Please sit in a pew with blue tape at your back.
9. Printed materials will not be available. Bibles and song books are removed from the pews. You are encouraged to bring your own Bible or use a Bible app.
10. Singing will be limited and held toward the end of our worship service.
11. Offering baskets will be available at the back of the church behind the last row of pews at each aisle. You may give as you enter or exit worship.
12. At the conclusion of worship, ushers will dismiss the congregation row by row, from the back to the front. We ask that you please exit directly to the parking lot where social distancing can be observed. The fellowship room and kitchen will be closed, and we will not be serving coffee, juice or snacks.

How are we cleaning and preparing for the worship service on Sunday?

1. The regularly touched surfaces in our common areas (door handles, railings, tables, all bathroom surfaces) will be thoroughly and regularly disinfected.
2. We will ensure cleaning supplies and disinfectant are always on hand.
3. Signs regarding social distancing, safety measures and hand washing will be posted.
4. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
5. Microphones, instruments, music stands, and other technical equipment touched and used during the service will be disinfected before and after the service.

Are these changes permanent?

As we continue worshiping together during the pandemic, we will strive to ensure that we can do so in a safe and healthy manner. As this situation continues to change, we will adjust these guidelines using the wisdom and resources available to us from the local, state, and federal officials, as well as from the CRC Denomination. If our situation changes to not allow worship, Elders and Deacons will notify you.

We know that the opportunity to meet freely in the church building and at each other's homes will return. Until then, please bear in mind that these worship practices are intended as a way we can love one another.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this letter, please contact your District Council Members.

Revised, November 2020