**Calvary Presbyterian Church**

COVID-19 Guidelines for Safe In-Person Services

Published June 15, 2020

In the last few weeks, Calvary has closely monitored the guidelines published by the CDC and Governor’s office of California to ensure best practices for safe gathering, resuming in-person services and maintaining safe distancing.

On June 21 we resumed in person services at our chapel at 2343 Country Club Boulevard and entered phase 2 of our reopening. On July 13 the California governor's office issued guidance requiring places of worship to postpone holding indoor worship services, and we followed their updates by returning to phase 1 of our safe return plan.

**In line with state issued guidance, we will be temporarily postponing indoor services and will instead be holding services online and outdoor/drive-in as the weather conditions allow.**

We’re committed first and foremost to your safety and to ensuring that our worship environment meets local guidelines for the county of San Joaquin, as well as the state of California’s COVID-19 industry guidelines for places of Worship (https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/).

To make that possible, our Sunday service have been redesigned to create a touchless worship experience that allows for safe physical distancing.

We’re following a gradual plan for resuming our in-person services. We have moved back to phase 1 in line with the state issued guidance. Rather than attach dates to these phases, we’ll be following the California guidance to determine when to move to the next phase.

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|  | **Phase 1 –**  **March 15 – June 21** | **Phase 2 – June 21** | **Phase 3 –**  **TBD** | **Phase 4 –**  **TBD** |
| **In-Person Services** | Online | Online and 25% capacity | Online and 50% capacity | Online and 75%+ capacity |
| **Fellowship** | Online | Outside only | Discretionary, distanced fellowship | Discretionary |
| **Social Distancing** | Limited, six feet apart, masks | Limited, six feet apart, masks | Limited, six feet apart, masks | New normal |
| **Vulnerable and at-risk** | Stay home | Stay home | Cautious distancing | Discretionary |
| **Max Group size** | Immediate home | 10-60 | 60+, discretionary | Discretionary |
| **Bible Study** | Online or were postponed | Away from church, discretionary | Discretionary | Resuming or regular |
| **Kids** | Postponed | Postponed | Precautions | Resumes |
| **Staff** | Solo working and flexible | Flexible with precautions | Flexible with precautions | Normal Operation |
| **Events and Seminars** | Online | Online, in-person limited to 25% capacity | Online with limited in-person | Discretionary |

We’d like to outline the precautions and planning we’ve taken to ensure that your safe return to Calvary is possible:

**Working Together to Stay Healthy**

**Disinfecting and Cleaning Practices**

* **We’ve hired a professional cleaning company with industry experience in COVID-19 to thoroughly clean and disinfect our worship facility:**
  + Commercial grade disinfectant sprayed throughout the chapel
  + All floors and carpets disinfected
  + Pews and pew rails disinfected
  + Cleaning of Bibles and hymnals
  + Cleaning of all high touch areas throughout the chapel
* High touch areas will continue to be cleaned and disinfected in between each in-person service

**Worship Service Practices**

**Touchless Experience**

* The Calvary worship service will be a touchless experience, and all high-volume areas will be thoroughly sanitized between services:
  + Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the chapel – attendees are encouraged to bring their own Bibles or read scriptures from the screen at the front of the chapel
* Offering and tithes, as well as Connect @ Calvary cards can be placed at the end of the service into the bucket at the rear of the chapel
* Entry doors to the facility will remain open at the beginning and conclusion of service – heat and weather permitting, doors will remain open throughout the duration of service to aid in the circulation of air from outside
* Dedicated volunteers will be available at the main entry door to direct attendees and guests

**Personal Protection**

* Attendees and guests will be screened for fever at the entry of the chapel using digital forehead thermometers
* Attendees and guests are asked to wear protective face coverings at all times within the main building.
* We’ll be providing protective face coverings to those who do not have them
* Hand sanitizing stations will be available at the entrance points and throughout the chapel
* Extra soap and hand disinfectant have been placed in the restroom facilities
* Signs have been placed throughout the chapel with personal protection guidelines

**Safe Distancing**

* We have reduced the capacity of our services to 25% of our regular chapel capacity
* Attendees and guests are asked to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from those who do not live in their immediate household at all times during the service
* Tape has been placed at the main entry on the floors and aisles to assist in safe distancing
* Every other row has been marked off to ensure distancing, and signs have been placed in the pews indicating open seats. Every other row will be blocked off (for example):

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

* Signs have been placed throughout the chapel with safe distancing guidelines
* We ask that only one person use the restroom facilities at a time

**Changes to Worship Style**

* In line with California’s places of worship guidance, we’re changing some of our usual worship practices:
  + Worship music will be pre-recorded and attendees and guests are asked not to sing
  + We’re limiting instances of reciting of liturgy as a congregation – some elements of the liturgy will be read out loud by the service host
  + The offering of peace (greeting and extending a hand of Christian fellowship) will be facilitated by a friendly ☺ hand wave to those around you
* Fellowship and potlucks at the conclusion of the service will be postponed until stage 3 of our in-person services
* Kids ministry temporarily postponed

**What you can do**

* Follow this guidance at our services to help ensure your safety and health and the safety and health of others
* If you don't feel well or have health concerns, please stay home and join us through our live stream service on Facebook or at CPCStockton.org
* Please wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often.
* Maintain a distance of six feet between yourself and other guests.

**Your Generosity is Making a Difference**

Your generous giving through this period has allowed us to:

* Bless health care and other frontline essential workers with masks through our mask-making ministry
* Reach out to the community through a prayer walk, as well as distributing masks to families and individuals in our church neighborhood
* Put in place the equipment and software to make sure we could continue worshipping together online as a church family
* Secure Pastor Chris as our interim preacher, which has richly blessed our congregation
* Assisted in the search and transition of our new Lead Pastor
* Allowed us to have a bigger impact in our community and city!

For more information about how you can support our COVID-19 response, please get in touch with Brian at brian@cpcstockton.org.

**We Want to Pray for You**

We understand how hard this season has been and we're praying for God's guidance and wisdom in all of the choices you face in the weeks ahead.

Reach out to our Lead Pastor at [pastor@cpcstockton.org](mailto:pastor@cpcstockton.org) for specific areas where we can be praying for you.