



# REGATHERING PROTOCOLS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN  
WE WORSHIP TOGETHER



# INTRODUCTION

## UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGES

We are grateful God has given us the opportunity to reassemble as a body of believers, but as you well know, we are living in strange and challenging days. We don't know how long this season will last—only God does—but we know many things will be different when we regather. In compliance with government guidelines and out of love for our neighbors, we have implemented several changes to our normal routines and rhythms as a church. We acknowledge that many of the changes we have prayerfully planned and considered are less than ideal. But as you read about or experience these changes, we ask that you think about and approach them with the goals we had in mind:

1. **LOVE** - We love our church family, and we love our community. We desire to exercise every reasonable precaution to provide a safe environment to worship. We also want to communicate to our community that we take their safety and health seriously by doing everything we can to limit the spread of the virus.
2. **HUMILITY** - There is no handbook for how to handle these situations. There are no perfect solutions, and information is developing constantly. With that in mind, we are reminded that none of us has all the answers. Opinions will differ, but we want to approach each other humbly, united by a Savior that knows every detail and remains in control.
3. **FLEXIBILITY** - We recognize that our plans, intentions, and expectations cannot be rigid. We want to remain mindful that God allows us to worship, serve, and know Him in ways that might be different from our normal Sunday morning pattern.
4. **RESPECT** - We respect the guidance given to us by the authorities God has appointed over us in our government. We also respect the desire of some to ease back slowly into corporate gatherings. No one should feel guilty or pressured into returning before they are ready.
5. **PATIENCE** - We're all ready to gather together in a way that feels "normal," but recognize it will take some time. We do not want to make reckless decisions that forsake safety, love, and much prayer.
6. **THANKFULNESS** - God has granted us amazing opportunities to remain connected. We are thankful for how we been able to continue worshiping together through unusual means. We will be thankful to see each other once again—even if we need to stand at a distance from one another.
7. **REVERENCE** - We recognize our limitations to understand and control these circumstances. We are desperately dependent on God for wisdom, direction, and protection. We pray that He will continue to guide and grow our church during this time.

Your Church Staff Loves You

# BIG PICTURE CHANGES

## BEFORE WE WALK THROUGH DETAILS OF WHAT SUNDAY MORNINGS WILL LOOK LIKE...

Let's talk about some of the general things to be aware of. To properly social distance those in attendance, we will have two identical 45-min Sunday-morning services at 9 AM and 11 AM. We will continue to livestream the service at 11 AM (the first service will not be livestreamed). We will not have on-site ConnectGroups for any age groups, but groups will continue to meet virtually using Zoom (info about joining a group can be found at [firstkenner.org/resources](http://firstkenner.org/resources)). Your Zoom group may need to meet at a different time since we are regathering and will have two services. Ask your group leader about any changes or go to the website Resources page for updated group times.

To ensure we have the space and capacity to safely distance everyone in the Worship Center, we are asking the members of a particular ConnectGroup to attend a specific service (either at 9 AM or 11 AM). While this request won't be rigidly enforced (we won't be checking enrollment at the door!), it is really helpful if group members attend at the requested time. The group "assignments" are given to the right.

If you have not yet joined a ConnectGroup, please feel free to attend either service. We'd love to have you and we should have plenty of space. We have asked groups with more senior adult members to attend the first service at 9 AM. We have a robust sanitation protocol planned to clean in between services, but we believe the first service might be the slightly safer option. Likewise, if you are a senior adult (or other at risk population) but not in a ConnectGroup, we would encourage you to attend the first service as well.

### TWO IDENTICAL SERVICES

Please attend according to your ConnectGroup. Not in a group? Feel free to attend either service!

#### 9 AM

ConnectGroup 7  
(Waller)

ConnectGroup 8  
(Dryden)

ConnectGroup 9  
(Logan)

ConnectGroup 10  
(Moore)

#### 11 AM

ConnectGroup 1  
(McCallon)

ConnectGroup 2  
(Robles & Whatley)

ConnectGroup 3  
(Godbold)

ConnectGroup 4  
(Guy)

ConnectGroup 5  
(MacCord)

ConnectGroup 6  
(Screen)

ConnectGroup 11  
(Carjaval)

ConnectGroup 12  
(Putman)

ConnectGroup 13  
(Stephanie Screen)

### MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:

- Two brief worship services (9 AM & 11 AM)
- Livestream will be available at 11 AM
- Attendance is "assigned" by ConnectGroup
- Childcare will not be available
- ConnectGroups will continue to meet via Zoom

# WALKTHROUGH

We're going to give you a quick snapshot of what you might experience when regathering with us for worship. This is only a guide and certain things might change over time as we adjust to new information. We hope this overview helps give you a better idea what to expect before, during, and after the service and some things you might want to be mindful of beforehand.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE  
WALKING UP  
WALKING IN  
DURING THE SERVICE  
AFTER THE SERVICE



## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

### THINGS TO DO OR THINK ABOUT:

- Decide whether it's wisest to attend or would it be best to watch the livestream
- Make sure you (or anyone in your family) are not displaying any symptoms of illness (fever, cough, sore throat, etc.)
- Collect and bring masks or face-coverings
- Use the restroom prior to coming to church (bathrooms will be available on-site but minimizing their use will help with cross-contamination)
- If possible, attend the service time "assigned" by your ConnectGroup
- Prepare your tithe/offering ahead of time if desired (envelopes and pens will not be available at the church)
- It is important that the services begin on time; plan to arrive 10-15 minutes earlier than normal (especially the first few weeks) due to the new admittance protocols

### WHAT YOU'LL SEE/EXPERIENCE:

- The parking lot immediately surrounding the Worship Center has been designated as Senior Adult parking

# WALKING UP

## THINGS TO DO OR THINK ABOUT:

- Once you exit your vehicle, please wear a mask (if possible) and practice social distancing (6ft apart)
- If you see a long line formed by an entrance, consider staying in your vehicle until the line is shorter

## WHAT YOU'LL SEE/EXPERIENCE:

- Only two entrances will be available (one on each side of the Worship Center); all other doors will be locked
- The primary entrance (diagonal from the education building), will form a queue down the concrete walkway if necessary
- Temperatures will be taken just outside the entrance using a contactless forehead infrared thermometer; it only takes a few seconds to receive a reading (those with temperatures over 100°F will be asked to return home)

# WALKING IN

## THINGS TO DO OR THINK ABOUT:

- As you walk into the Worship Center, please keep your family together and moving forward (grouping or stopping will cause problems with others' movements)
- If you are physically able, please consider sitting in the balcony so that our senior adult members can utilize ground-floor seating
- Please be understanding that you might not be able to sit in your normal spot and follow the instructions of the ushers; for everyone's safety it is very important to seat everyone in an organized and intentional manner
- If possible, please find your seat before using the restroom

## WHAT YOU'LL SEE/EXPERIENCE:

- We will not be printing bulletins for distribution
- Hand sanitizing stations have been setup throughout the building
- Most of the Worship Center has been converted to one-directional traffic; please follow all posted signs and walkways (this is necessary to maintain social distancing requirements)
- In general, traffic will always enter the sanctuary using doors at the back and exit the sanctuary using doors at the front (you will never exit through the same door you entered)
- Water fountains will be disabled and the coffee bar will closed
- Ushers will guide you to your seats and sections will be filled from front to back; please follow the instructions of the ushers (they have been trained to follow a process to keep everyone as safe as possible)
- Guests will only be seated every other pew and a maximum of two "household groups" will be seated per pew (groups must be able to stay 6ft apart)
- Balcony seating will be accessible using the center stairwells (adjoined to the normal coffee area); those sitting in the balcony should continue down the main hallway before heading upstairs

# DURING THE SERVICE

## THINGS TO DO OR THINK ABOUT:

- Please do not get up from your seat and move around unless necessary
- Do not shake hands or break social distancing with anyone around you, but feel free to talk with those seated in the surrounding pews
- Because we are also livestreaming, worship must start promptly; please try to be seated in place a little before the beginning of the service
- We're excited to have families attend the service; please show grace and kindness to families and their children if any disruptions occur
- We won't be able to include all the parts of our "normal" service, but we are excited to gather and worship in some different ways

## WHAT YOU'LL SEE/EXPERIENCE:

- If you need to leave the sanctuary for any non-emergency reason, please use the front exits as directed and re-enter as you did when being seated
- All loose materials have been removed from the pews (envelopes, Bibles, pens, etc.)
- The guest WiFi network has been disabled to ensure we have enough bandwidth available for the livestream
- Connect Cards and other feedback forms will be available online (you can use a smartphone)
- For the first few weeks, the service will likely include limited congregational singing; this is a measure to lessen the transmission of the virus through the air
- There will not be an offering collected during the service nor a formal time of greeting



# AFTER THE SERVICE

## THINGS TO DO OR THINK ABOUT:

- After being instructed to exit, please do not linger or gather inside the building, but feel free to talk outside while social distancing

## WHAT YOU'LL SEE/EXPERIENCE:

- There will not be a traditional "invitation/response" during the service but instructions will be given about how you can talk with a staff member after the service
- You will be dismissed by section; please do not get up from your seat until instructed to do so
- Bins to collect your tithes and offerings will be labeled and positioned in the pathway of each exit
- Pastor Rhyne will be outside in the parking lot after the service