

**Riverview “Together Again”
Updated Plan**
May 26, 2020



Introduction

Thank you to the many members who shared their input using the survey distributed last week. And thank you for all of your prayers for our pastors and leaders. The “working plan” shared last week has been updated, based on the feedback and current information we have received. Below is the plan for the coming weeks of worship at Riverview. Because the situation will continue to develop, your pastors and leaders will be continually assessing the situation and any available information and modifying our approach as time goes on. Our prayer is that, with God’s blessing, we will be able to safely worship with fewer and fewer limitations.

We are thankful that we have been able to continue sharing and hearing God’s Word, although at a distance, over the past ten weeks. We pray that God, who promises to work all things for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28), has worked in all of us a greater appreciation for the family of believers and for the opportunity to worship together in God’s name. Now it is time to move forward in love for our brothers and sisters. We all have access to different information channels, and who can claim that all of those channels are objective and unbiased? And we all make decisions every day about how we will face each day and care for ourselves. Now is a time to think especially of those around us. Let’s come together, striving to respect the lens through which our fellow sinner-saints see this situation, seeking to set aside our own interests for the sake of those around us. And let’s work hard, with the Spirit’s blessing, to destroy the devil’s plans to create division among us. A sentiment we saw in many of your surveys was summed up so well by one of you: “I am ultimately for whatever reaches the most amount of people.” May continue to give all of us such a spirit of love and unity, as we seek to celebrate and share the faith that makes us one.

Service Times

- Beginning Sunday, May 31, 2020 (Pentecost Sunday), Riverview will offer four services each weekend:
 - Sundays – 8:00, 9:15, 10:30 am
 - Mondays – 6:30 pm
 - The 8:00 am service will be livestreamed every Sunday.
 - Our Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, June 7. Services will be at 8:00, 9:15, and 10:45 am. RLS students will be confirmed in the 9:15 service. Public school students will be confirmed in the 10:45 service. (Adults who have recently completed instruction may be confirmed in the 8:00 or Monday services.)
- All services will be limited to 30 households, and pre-registration online or by phone will be required. This will enable social distancing, while also maximizing our capacity.
- Services will be no longer than 45 minutes in length, and [singing will be reduced](#).

Holy Communion

- Communion will be celebrated for the first time on June 7-8. Scheduling of communion services in following weeks is still to be determined.
- Communion will incorporate distribution procedures that maintain social distancing and sanitary practices.
- Members who are not comfortable receiving communion in worship may choose not to, with no stigma at all. It will still be available by private appointment for all who would prefer to receive it in this way.

Sanitation

- All worshippers are encouraged to use the hand sanitizer station available in the church entryway.
- Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the pews. Worshippers may bring their own, if they wish.
- Service Folders
 - One-time use printed service folders with music (melody only) will be available.
 - Service folders may also be accessed digitally on our website. Wi-Fi may be available for this purpose.
 - The order of service and hymns will be projected on the chancel wall, as usual.
- Offerings
 - No offering plates will be passed during the service.
 - Offerings will be gathered using plates or boxes at the door.
 - Members are encouraged to continue to use e-giving options.
- Attendance Tracking
 - Worship Cards will only be used for guests and will be available in the entryway ([online worship card](#) will still be available).
 - Detailed worship attendance will be tracked for each service, using preregistration. This will allow for notification and tracking for any who might be exposed, if someone should be diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Sanctuary doors will be propped open throughout the service. Exterior doors will be propped open or held open by ushers before and after each service.
- Pews tops and ends will be wiped down between services, and pews used will alternate between services.
- Our cleaning service will perform a thorough cleaning of the sanctuary, restrooms, and entry points after each worship day.

Social Distancing

- Attendance:
 - Members who are not feeling well or who are showing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) are expected to stay home and participate online.
 - Members who have been exposed to COVID-19 are expected to observe all recommended or required quarantine protocols.
 - Members who do not yet feel safe in the public worship setting may continue to worship from home.
- Masks:
 - All worshippers are encouraged to wear masks or face coverings.
 - Ushers will wear masks and clean and sanitize their hands before and after serving.
 - Masks will be required at the 8:00 service on Sundays. This service is primarily for those who might have a heightened sensitivity or increased health risk due to age or other reasons.
 - Disposable masks will be available for those who don't own a mask.
- Only 1/2 of pews will be used in each service, alternating between services, with markings to keep households at least six feet apart.
- Pastors and ushers will not be shaking hands. Members will be ushered out of worship by one of the pastors.
- Worshippers are strongly encouraged to observe social distancing at all times, before, during, and after services.
- Worshippers attending the 9:15 or 10:30 services are asked not to arrive more than 15 minutes before the service. Worshippers are asked to leave the building within 15 minutes after the end of the service. Worshippers are discouraged from lengthy visiting inside. Such visiting might be done more safely outside.
- Separate building entry and exit points will not be used. Please be courteous and allow social distancing as you enter and exit.