

**Riverview “Together Again”
Working Plan**
May 19, 2020



Survey of Members

- We are conducting a survey of members to gauge sensibilities and intentions for returning to worship gatherings.

Worship

- We plan to resume in-person worship the weekend of May 31 - Pentecost Sunday.
 - Allows time to solicit further feedback from members to address concerns and additional ideas that may arise
 - Allows time for getting precautions and technology in place to create a safe environment on campus and a positive worship experience at home
- We intend to offer several services each weekend
 - 3-5 services/weekend
 - Possible Saturday evening service
 - 2-3 Sunday Services
 - Monday 6:30 pm
 - Responses to the survey will help determine the number and timing of services. Services may be added or removed in subsequent weeks based upon need.
- We will initially limit worship attendance to 50 people/service, in line with current guidelines (limiting gatherings to 50 people and businesses to 25% capacity)
 - We are considering dividing the congregation alphabetically (½ one week; ½ following week, etc.) to accommodate as many as possible.
- Members will be required to sign-up online in advance to limit and balance attendance.
 - Those without internet may call the office to reserve a place
- Services will continue to be livestreamed online each week (time TBD)
- Services will be no longer than 45 minutes in length, and singing will be reduced.
- Holy Communion
 - Communion will not be celebrated the first weekend back, to allow time to work out any kinks; communion may be celebrated for several consecutive weeks following to allow as many as possible to receive it.
 - 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
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in both church and school entryways. All worshippers are encouraged to make use of it.
 - Bibles, hymnals, etc., will be removed from the pews. Members may bring their own, if they wish.
 - Service Folders
 - One-time use printed service folders with music will be available.
 - Service folders may also be accessed digitally on our website.
 - Powerpoint presentation will still be used.
 - 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.
- 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 strongly encouraged 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.
 - Members not attending the first service in a given day are asked not to arrive more than 15 minutes before the service.
 - Separate building entry points will be used for entry and exit. (Exceptions may be made for those with limited mobility).
 - Masks:
 - All members are strongly encouraged to wear masks or face coverings. Disposable masks will be available for those who don't own a mask.
 - Those who might have a heightened sensitivity or increased health risk due to age or any other reason will be encouraged to attend the first service on Sunday. At this service, masks will be required. Exceptions will be made for medical conditions.
 - Only 1/3 of pews will be used in each service, with markings to keep households at least six feet apart.
 - Members are strongly encouraged to observe social distancing at all times, before, during, and after services.
 - Pastors will not be shaking hands. Members will be ushered out of worship.
 - Members are discouraged from lengthy visiting inside. Such visiting might be done more safely outside.

Closing Points

This is an ever-changing situation. 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 intend to comply with all laws and orders from governmental officials that don't forbid all preaching of the gospel. We welcome your thoughts and ideas, and we ask for your prayers.

Finally, we understand that there is a broad range of opinions within our Riverview membership. There are also some who are at a higher risk of illness and or of more serious consequences due to illness. We all trust that the Lord is our refuge, who is in control of all things. And we all pray "Deliver us from evil," trusting that God will do just that, according to his good and gracious will. But Christian love calls all of us to keep in mind the needs of those around us. That may mean setting aside our personal freedoms for the sake of our Christian brothers and sisters. It also means keeping watch, lest the devil use the choices that others make to tempt us to question their wisdom or love and to create division among us. God grant us all a spirit of Christian love and unity, as we seek to celebrate and share the faith that makes us one.

Other Ministries

- Boards and committee are encouraged to consider continuing meeting virtually.
- Meetings held at church should practice social distancing and clean and disinfect surfaces after meetings.
- Initially, no in-person Bible studies or classes will be held. Classes will be held or materials provided digitally.
- Social distancing and sanitation practices comparable to the worship practices outlined above will be used in any other ministries or events that are held.