

Resuming Cedarcreek Sunday Service

The Cedarcreek staff is working to provide a safe and welcoming environment to those who choose to attend as we begin to resume our Sunday morning services. We recognize that there are a myriad of perspectives on how to best accomplish this goal and understand that we all have individual responsibility in determining how to best reintegrate ourselves. As a staff we encourage everyone to extend grace to each other and love our neighbors even when ideas and viewpoints do not match our own.

We are planning to resume our Sunday Morning Service starting Sunday, May 31st. With the shifting landscape of policies, restrictions and regulations it's possible that both that date and the transitional changes below may be altered.

Listed below are the transitional changes that we have been working to incorporate as we move to resume our Sunday morning service:

Virtual Service:

We understand that many individuals may continue to avoid public gatherings as we reopen. In an effort to allow everyone to partake in a similar Sunday Morning service we plan to continue pre-recording the message in both video and audio formats and make them available on the website. We plan to continue this practice as long as it seems appropriate and remains sustainable.

Multiple Services:

We have considered adding a second or even third service as an option on Sunday mornings. While we are unsure what our Sunday Morning attendance will look like when we reopen, guidance from other churches across the nation that are already open or have conducted surveys shows that we should expect a 30%-50% initial return rate. In addition to expecting lower attendance as we reopen both the time and manpower that what would be necessary in order to sanitize the building between services makes offering multiple services difficult. At this point we are planning to continue having a single service.

Kid's Ministry:

Due to the easy spread of communicable illness in the children's areas we will not be offering Sunday School or Nursery until it seems appropriate to resume those functions. In an effort to accommodate parents and children, additional but smaller "Kids Corner" spaces will be set up in the sanctuary until normal programming resumes.

Sanctuary:

In an effort to create an environment that allows adequate social distancing the sanctuary seating has been rearranged to allow people to sit with their respective households. We ask that attendees sit with their respective households and in the smallest section that their family is comfortable occupying.

Musical Worship:

We recognize the inherent risk of having a larger number of individuals singing in a confined space. In order to accommodate those who are uncomfortable with this practice we will be moving all musical worship to the end of service in order to give those who do not wish to participate an opportunity to be dismissed from the service.

Face-Masks and Gloves:

We are not planning to require those in attendance to wear face-masks or gloves in order to attend the service. We would encourage those who choose to forgo wearing a face-mask to be respectful and maintain adequate social distancing to those around them.

Coffee Bar and Cookies:

In order to minimize contact through the use of coffee pots and other self-serve items we will have Sunday Facilitators staffing the coffee bar and serving people. The coffee will not be self-serve until it seems appropriate to resume our normal activities. In addition we are not planning to have Sunday Cookies available until further notice.

Greeters & Ushers:

We are working to continue having greeters posted at our main entrances but are not planning to have bulletins available for them to distribute. We have directed our greeters, for their safety, to stand back an appropriate distance from the entrance and verbally welcome attendees.

Tithes and Offerings:

Instead of passing a basket on Sunday morning there will be a locked box available in the old foyer for use. The online giving through our website and the black locked box outside the finance office will remain available.

Communion:

Currently we are not intending to offer communion at our Sunday morning service. This will be one of the first things we add back into our Sunday morning routines when we find both a safe and manageable way to distribute it. In the meantime we would encourage individuals to take communion in their homes with their family and close friends.

Custodial:

Sanitation of the building is particularly important during this transition. We will be prioritizing the sanitization of high contact surfaces such as door knobs, countertops, etc. both before and after our Sunday morning service. We recognize that being a public space we are unable to provide a completely sanitary facility and ask that those risks be weighed by each individual household when deciding how and when to reintegrate.

We hope that these transitional changes bring a sense of comfort to you as you consider joining us on a Sunday morning. And as we begin meeting together once again let us keep in mind the two greatest commandments Jesus points us to:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ... ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” – Mark 12:30-31

Let us extend grace to our brothers and sisters and seek to love each other as our Heavenly Father loves us.

-Pastors Rob, Mark and Justin