

LIVE SERVICE UPDATE with QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

WestPark Church

(Updates: 7/19/2020, 8/25/2020)

We have chosen a methodical approach to providing live services so that we can do these things.

- *Legal compliance:* to make sure we comply with the legal regulations for liability purposes. We have sought legal counsel to help us sort through sometimes difficult to understand language that has come from the government. Our insurance company has notified us that liability claims could be denied if we knowingly or intentionally break the law.
- *Safety:* we want to provide the safest environment possible.
- *Experience:* we want to provide the best experience possible given the restrictions.

Here are the *current regulations* we have to abide by that carry the biggest impact. Hopefully some of these will be loosened soon. Health regulations state that...

- 30% maximum attendance in worship areas which will require pre-registration online or through calling the office for those with no online access.
- Strict social distancing will be required. Health regulations require that we will have to come in quickly, be seated by ushers in assigned seating areas, and leave quickly with no fellowship in the lobby and no hugging or hand shaking.
- Masks to be worn by everybody over age 12, except if someone can't wear one for medical reasons. We do encourage children to wear masks though.
- Singing by congregation *is* allowed, but masks and social distancing is required.
- No kid's or junior high programs on Sunday, for now.
- And signed waivers are now recommended by our insurance carrier.

These government restrictions certainly aren't appealing. But we will do our best to make the experience as safe and as enjoyable as possible and we will continue to provide robust online services from all our languages.

A couple of considerations.

We all lie on a spectrum of what we believe we should do. Some believe we should start immediately, some believe we should start after a vaccine is developed, and some lie in-between the two. That's ok that people have differing opinions. Nobody is right or wrong. No one has the perfect strategy because this pandemic is unprecedented. Therefore, we must respect that we have differing opinions. We must practice loving deference to each other.

If you believe you should wait before attending a live service because you are at a higher risk, have family that are high risk, or due to other reasons, and you prefer to attend our online service, that is fine. Please do what you believe is best for you and your family. There are no winners and losers here and no right or wrong choices as to attending live or online. We will be ready when you are ready to return and we will honor your decision.

Also, other churches are doing things differently from us. Some are starting. Some are waiting until later. Some are including or excluding elements in their services different from ours. That's ok. They must do what they believe is best for them and we must do what we believe is best for us.

Remember:

- Fear sees obstacles.

- Faith sees opportunity.
- We choose faith!

Top questions and answers.

1. *At this point, what are the major restrictions?*
 - 30% maximum attendance in worship areas which will require pre-registration online or for those with no internet access, by calling the office so that we know who to expect.
 - Strict social distancing will be required: in quickly, sit in reserved seating, and leave quickly with no fellowship in the lobby and no hugging or hand shaking.
 - Masks to be worn by everybody age 2 and over, except if someone can't wear one for medical reasons.
 - No singing by the congregation *is* allowed, though masks and social distancing is required.
 - No kid's or junior high programs, for now.
 - Waivers to be signed are now recommended by our insurance carrier.
2. *Why are we having to meet these requirements when other churches are not? We can't speak for other churches, but we sought legal counsel who advised that abiding by the above regulations is keeping within the stated regulations, protects our insurance coverage, and reflects our commitment to the biblical injunction of obeying our leaders except where we must compromise our faith.*

Rom. 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.
3. *Will mid-week programs open at the same time?* No, regulations prohibit them for now.
4. *When will kids' ministry open?* We don't know yet, but not before fall
5. *How long will the service be?* Less than 1 hour.
6. *How many English service times will be provided?* Two, one at 9 am and one at 11 am. Spanish will meet at both hours and Arabic and Chinese will only meet at 11 am.
7. *What steps are being taken to ensure social distancing is maintained and sanitizing is thorough?* We will have extensive signage in all languages, trained ushers, and clearly marked seats in the worship areas that maintain social distancing. We will have multiple hand sanitizer stations and have purchased specialized equipment that allow us to thoroughly sanitize.
8. *Do I have to wear a mask?* Yes, at this point regulations call for everyone age 12 and up to wear a mask unless medically unfeasible. We do encourage children to wear masks though. We will ask everyone to bring one from home but will have masks available for those who forget.
9. *Can I use the washroom?* We will have limited washroom availability, with cleaning protocols in place and allowance for one person or family unit at a time in a washroom to maintain social distancing.
10. *Is there anything for my child to do?* We will not provide Kids Walk now, but will incorporate into the service a mini-message for kids by Mrs. Kimberly and give out busy bags with some

fun things in them that the kids can do during the service. The contents will have been sanitized before handing them out on a Sunday.

11. *What will be the process for attending?* We will ask those who plan to attend to reserve their spot online or if they don't have internet, to call the church to reserve a spot. We will set reservations so that we have a few spots left for new people who may show up without having reserved a spot.
12. *Will singing be allowed?* Yes, but masking and social distancing is required.
13. *Will you continue to provide online services?* Yes, in all languages.
14. *Will we have bulletins and communion?* We will not provide bulletins nor can we do communion as we have done before. We are researching the possibility of special pre-packaged communion elements.
15. *What entrance do I use?* English will use the main front entrances of the building that face the large parking lot.
16. *Can I give an offering in church?* Yes, through the boxes on the walls, but we encourage online giving instead.
17. *Will the café be open?* No, we cannot provide food or drink and would ask that if you bring your own coffee or a water bottle, that you take the trash with you when you leave. If parents need to bring snacks for their kids, please take all refuse with you.
18. *Are outdoor services available over the summer so that we are not limited to 30%?* At this point we don't plan to have outdoor services.
19. *Will we be able to have an outdoor baptism service this year?* We are not planning an outdoor baptism at this point.