



Hayward Wesleyan Church

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June 15, 2020

Dear Church,

By God's grace, after thirteen full weeks Hayward Wesleyan Church is resuming onsite services this weekend!

Weekend Services will be held on:

Saturday @ 6:30pm

This service is BYOLC (Bring Your Own Lawn Chair) and will be held on the lawn to the east of the church. In case of rain the service will be held in the church gymnasium. As this service is outside we are able to accommodate as many as wish to attend. During this phase of our ReGathering Plan there will be no HWC Klds Church and no nursery.

Sunday @ 9am & 10:30am

These two services will be identical. Seating in the sanctuary will be limited to 70 people and when those seats are filled we will be directing people to the Main Street Theater where an identical service will be held with live music and a message via video. During this phase of our ReGathering Plan there will be no HWC Klds Church and no nursery.

Online Services will be held at 9am & 10:30am

Online services will continue to gather on our livestream platforms: hwc.church, Facebook and YouTube.

WRLS-FM (92.3) Radio -- Sunday Message is broadcast at 9:30 a.m.

Thank you in advance for grace as we begin to regather at our physical location this weekend. For a season, there will be some necessary adjustments to how we once traditionally gathered for worship. All of this is in an effort to respect and protect the health needs of those gathering alongside us.

We recognize that opinions vary on what guidelines should be in place. Amidst diversity of ideas, please exhibit a spirit of Christlike patience and humility. These are days for the Body of Christ to unite. We have one enemy. It's the evil one that has come to kill, steal, and destroy. We wage war against that enemy. We unite with all who fight that common opponent.

As we continue to face changes and challenges from the Coronavirus, it is likely that the times of deepest testing for us as a church body still lie ahead. How do we move forward in peace, love, and

respect with such a broad spectrum of passionately held opinions on what is right? How can we maintain our witness as loving, mature believers, united by our faith in Christ, while still holding our opinions?

It is important, as we enter this first phase that we revisit Biblical expectations of godly thought and actions.

How do we, as a church body, handle differences?

There is a clear understanding that God's ways are not our ways and no person is able to grasp all the factors in any given situation. Our knowledge is limited and often flawed. (Isaiah 55:8-9, I Corinthians 8:1-3)

It takes all of us with our differing views, diverse opinions and unique gifting to make up the Body of Christ. While standing uncompromisingly to the authority of Scripture, we need the views of other believers to get any sense of the complete picture. (I Corinthians 12:12-26)

We recognize our tendency to look past our own shortcomings. (Luke 6:41-42)

We commit ourselves to examining our own lives rather than looking at others. (II Corinthians 13:5)

We appreciate the power of words. (Proverbs 15:1-2, James 3:6)

We control the use of our tongues. (James 1:26)

When we do speak, we do so graciously. (Ecclesiastes 10:12, Colossians 4:6)

Whatever we do is done in deep humility for the betterment of others. (Philippians 2:3-8)

The overarching motivation for all our thoughts, words and actions is love, (I Corinthians 13) ...even toward those who mistreat us. (Matthew 5:44)

Compelled by love, we are willing to sacrifice our liberties for the sake of others. (I Corinthians 8, 10:24, Philippians 2:4)

This is a time of testing for the church. The enemy is poised and ready to pounce. The world is watching. We have the opportunity to demonstrate the selfless love of Christ. May God provide the humility and wisdom to show his glory in each of us.

I can't wait to actually worship together once again. Whether you choose to worship in person or online, take time this week to just thank God for seeing us through this very difficult, most unprecedented season.

Warmly,

Chad McCallum

Important ReGathering Information

If you are not feeling well or are uncomfortable coming into the building, please opt to join us via our livestream platforms: hwc.church, Facebook and YouTube.

Nursery and Kids Church are all closed for this initial phase in our ReGathering Plan. As your family worships together, please feel free to bring activities to the worship service for your children.

Restrooms and high-touch areas will be cleaned throughout the morning.

Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.

We will practice physical distancing of 6 feet in all areas of the building - family units may sit together.

All exterior doors will be propped open (weather permitting).

For the Sunday services at 9:00am and 10:30am these two services will be identical. Seating in the sanctuary will be limited to 70 people and when those seats are filled we will be directing people to the Main Street Theater where an identical service will be held with live music and a message via video.

Services will be 55 minutes long.

Offering plates will not be passed, instead the offering will be received at the doors following each service.

Bulletins will be provided along with a fun game for all of the kids to engage in a greater way with the sermon.

There will be no food or drink available, but you are more than welcome to bring your own.

Water fountains will be turned off.

For the time being, please allow non-contact greetings like waving and head nods to take the place of shaking hands, fist bumps, hugging, etc.

The CDC recommends everyone wear a facemask and we share in this recommendation but a mask is not a requirement for attending.

Please do not arrive more than 20 minutes prior to services and exit promptly to allow us time to clean and disinfect all areas.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is it true that there are some people who are forbidden to attend the service? Nope, that's not true. That said, if you are not feeling well or uncomfortable coming into the building, please consider joining us online.

Is it true that there is not going to be any coffee? We realize that this is a tough one, but unfortunately this is true. There will be no food or drink provided, but you can absolutely bring your own!

I'm a hugger...will Sunday be hard for me? It may be, as you will have to put your normal responses on hold. For the time being, please allow greetings like waving and head nods and the now popular elbow bump to take the place of shaking hands, fist bumps, hugging, etc.

All of this sounds fear-based. Doesn't that contradict scripture? The guidelines that we've established are not based on fear. They are based on wisdom. We have sought the counsel of the HWC Church Board and our leaders. We have diligently researched best practices. We received counsel from wise medical advisors. We are in complete unity on this plan to reenter the building. The precautions that we are taking are based on wisdom.

I heard that the sermon is going to be shorter...this sounds almost too good to be true...is it true that I don't have to worry about a long-winded preacher?

Now that's 100% true! The services will be 55 minutes in length, allowing restrooms and all high-touch areas to be cleaned.

Am I required to wear a mask for face covering? The CDC recommends everyone wear a facemask and we share in this recommendation but a mask is not a requirement for attending. Masks will be available for those wishing to wear one.

If I wear a mask, will I be the only one? In desiring to honor each attendee, HWC employees and volunteers will be wearing face coverings when in closer proximity to attendees.

I really like to hang around and visit after the service...will that be a problem? It might be. At the conclusion of our services, we kindly request that you not linger in the building, so that the cleaning teams can accomplish their tasks. That said, we invite you to linger and visit outside.

I disagree with all of these guidelines...what can I do? This is a great time to display Christian maturity. The Bible teaches there are times that we put aside our liberties for the sake of others (1 Corinthians 8, 10:24, Philippians 2:4). We all need to be cautious in our words, both spoken and written. We believe we can have unity in the midst of diversity.

How long are we going to have to worship this way? That's a very good question. HWC leaders are committed to monitor what is best for the body in these uncertain times and we will be evaluating our ReGathering steps on July 13, 2020. We are hopeful that this plan is only temporary and much of what we value can be restored. In the meantime, we ask for grace. This plan is not perfect. There will be mistakes. But don't forget, "love covers a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8

Who is going to win the Super Bowl this year? This is a highly controversial question that we are going to hold off on definitively answering. Broadly speaking, we believe that it will be a team in the National Football League and that it could be a team that wears green and yellow jerseys or even purple and white jerseys. We are leaving an official answer on this question open for now and will revisit it at a later date where our society is less at odds with one another. We appreciate your patience on this matter.