



Grace
Lutheran Church
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

Granting Grace to One Another:
Stages of Returning to
In-Person Worship at Grace

Stage-by-Stage Breakdown





Granting Grace to One Another: Stages of Returning to In-Person Worship at Grace

STAGE ONE: Complete Social Distancing

- No in-person ministry activities
- Worship is conducted online only
- No traffic permitted
- Water fountains are inaccessible
- Bathrooms are inaccessible
- No visitors permitted on church property
- Choir will meet virtually and lead song in virtual format
- Hymnals unavailable
- Bulletins contain all worship info and are available on website
- Offering will be collected electronically and through the mail
- Passing of the peace limited to those in one's home
- Communion will not be conducted
- Baptisms will not be conducted
- Nursery is closed
- Fellowship activities may be conducted online or on the telephone
- Social gathering outside on church property is not permitted
- No in-person ministry activities; faith formation is conducted in the home
- Committee meetings are to be conducted remotely
- Outside groups are not permitted to use church facilities
- Pastors and staff work from home



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STAGE TWO: Strict Social Distancing

- Sanitizing team is established, and will wipe down contact surfaces after each worship service
- In-person worship may resume, though parishioners will need to sign-up to attend (can do so online or by calling the church office); worship will be recorded and broadcast online for those who choose to worship from their homes
- In-person worship attendance limited to 50 people per service
- In-person worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall
- In-person worshipers bring folding chairs from their homes - socially-distanced seating will be marked on the Fellowship Hall floor
- In-person worshipers (ages 2+) must wear face masks until no longer recommended by the CDC
- Traffic patterns are established; elevators are to be used by people with limited mobility only
- Interior doors will be propped open where possible
- Water fountains are inaccessible
- Bathrooms are accessible; request one user at a time
- All visitors must provide at least one form of contact information in order to worship
- No congregational singing
- No choir singing at in-person worship; some soloists and instrumentalists may be acceptable
- Hymnals unavailable
- Bulletins contain all worship info and are not handed out by ushers



Granting Grace to One Another: Stages of Returning to In-Person Worship at Grace

STAGE TWO: Strict Social Distancing (continued)

- Offering will be collected by a basket that worshipers may deposit their contributions into as they leave the building; mail-in and electronic offering are still preferred
- Passing of the peace removed from liturgy and replaced temporarily by a litany of the peace
- Communion will not be conducted
- Baptisms will not be conducted
- Nursery remains closed
- Fellowship activities are not permitted to be held indoors
- Social gathering outside on church property is not permitted
- Faith formation activities are not permitted to be held indoors
- Committee meetings are to be conducted remotely
- Outside groups are not permitted to use church facilities
- Pastors and staff work in their offices or from home, as capabilities allow



Granting Grace to One Another: Stages of Returning to In-Person Worship at Grace

STAGE THREE: Moderate Social Distancing

- Sanitizing team continues its work
- In-person worship continues, but sign-up lists are no longer required; worship will continue to be recorded and broadcast online for those who choose to worship from their homes
- In-person worship attendance only limited by moderate social distancing
- In-person worship will be held in the Sanctuary
- In-person worship returns to the Sanctuary and seating is determined by moderate social distancing
- In-person worshipers (ages 2+) must wear face masks until no longer recommended by the CDC
- Traffic patterns are revised; elevators recommended to be used by people with limited mobility
- Interior doors continue to be propped open where possible
- Water fountains are inaccessible
- Bathrooms are fully operational
- Visitor contact information is still preferred
- Congregational singing resumes, unless CDC recommends otherwise
- Choir may resume singing, provided that the CDC, ACDA, and/or ALCM has presented a reasonably safe way of doing so
- Hymnals unavailable
- Bulletins contain all worship info and are not handed out by ushers



Granting Grace to One Another: Stages of Returning to In-Person Worship at Grace

STAGE THREE: Moderate Social Distancing (continued)

- Offering will be collected by a basket that worshipers may deposit their contributions into as they leave the building; mail-in and electronic offering are still preferred
- Passing of the peace remains omitted; litany of the peace continues
- Communion will be conducted in one element only (bread)
- Baptisms will not be conducted
- Nursery remains closed
- Fellowship activities may be held indoors, assuming moderate social distancing is observed; no food is permitted at this stage
- Social gathering outside on church property is permitted, assuming moderate social distancing is observed
- Faith formation activities may be held indoors, assuming moderate social distancing is observed and all events are scheduled with the church office
- Committee meetings are encouraged to be conducted remotely; the Fellowship Hall is the only permissible space for scheduled in-person committee meetings, provided that moderate social distancing is observed
- Outside groups are not permitted to use church facilities
- Pastors and staff work primarily in their offices; all office visits must be scheduled



Granting Grace to One Another: Stages of Returning to In-Person Worship at Grace

STAGE FOUR: Limited Social Distancing

- Sanitizing team continues its work
- In-person worship continues; worship will continue to be recorded and broadcast online for those who choose to worship from their homes
- In-person worship attendance with limited social distancing
- In-person worship continues in the Sanctuary
- In-person worship continues to be held in the Sanctuary; seating to be determined by limited social distancing
- In-person worshipers (ages 2+) must wear face masks until no longer recommended by the CDC
- Traffic patterns return to normal; elevators are fully accessible to all
- All doors return to normal
- Water fountains may be used (if masks are no longer recommended by the CDC)
- Bathrooms fully operational
- Visitor contact information is still preferred
- Congregational singing continues, unless CDC recommends otherwise
- Choir may resume singing, provided that the CDC, ACDA, and/or ALCM has presented a reasonably safe way of doing so
- Hymnals return to pew racks
- Bulletins contain most worship info; ushers may return to the practice of handing them out to worshipers



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STAGE FOUR: Limited Social Distancing (continued)

- Offering may be collected by the passing of the plate; mail-in and electronic offering are still preferred
- Passing of the peace returns to the liturgy; emphasis given that physically touching others is not necessary for this liturgical act
- Communion will be conducted using both elements; emphasis given that one element remains sufficient, as always
- Baptisms may be conducted for adults; infant Baptisms to resume at a later time
- Nursery remains closed until at least one staff member is hired to fill the Nursery Attendant vacancy
- Fellowship activities may be held indoors, assuming limited social distancing is observed; food is permitted, (if masks are no longer recommended by the CDC)
- Social gathering outside on church property is permitted, assuming limited social distancing is observed
- Faith formation activities may be held indoors, assuming limited social distancing is observed
- All committees may meet at their own discretion, provided that limited social distancing is observed and options exist for committee members who wish to participate remotely
- Outside groups may use church facilities if they agree to adhere to limited social distancing as outlined by Grace staff
- Pastors and staff resume normal working conditions



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Remember:

- **Progression** through these stages will be determined by the **Congregation Council**
- **Progression** through these stages **may not be strictly linear**; we may need to move backwards and forwards as we continue discerning what measures will keep all of us reasonably safe
- The **Congregation Council** may alter the details of any stage at any time, and will make every effort to communicate changes as quickly and effectively as possible
- These stages were established by the **Congregation Council**, following the recommendations of the ELCA, the SC Synod, Grace's pastors, the Health & Wellness Committee, the CDC, SC DHEC, the White House, and other sources of public health information. For more information, please visit the COVID-19 page on our website [here](#).

5 Ways We Will Show Love for One Another

- 1. Physical Distancing**
- 2. Cloth Face Coverings**
- 3. Proper Hand-washing**
- 4. Cleaning Contact Surfaces**
- 5. Staying Home When We Are Sick and When We Have Been Exposed**

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