

REOPENING REPORT TO SESSION 4/13/21

In our October meeting it was approved to allow our committee the latitude to determine dates for safe indoor, outdoor and alternative services of worship when the local data indicated it was safe to do so. Thankfully, I am here to report, we are now at that point.

We want to preface the following announcements with this statement: we all know things can change and as we move forward, we will continue tracking local data and adjust things, when and if necessary.

As you know the campus has been open for small groups and First Kids since the Fall. With all the proper safety measures in place.

Today we report the approval of adding food & drink to such gatherings. Boxed or pre-made foods to start and phasing into buffet style etc. as we see how trends go.

With this news, we are giving the OK to several organized events that are to take place later this Spring and into the Summer. These will all be scheduled for the front lawn of the Fellowship House with Davis Hall ONLY as an inclement weather back up. The events are:

Preparation work can begin for those working on Market for Mission on campus

High school senior reception on May 16th

June 6 reception for Rush

June 20 welcome reception for Ellen and family

Vacation Bible School – June 21-24 – using parts of campus outside and inside and following the already in place precautions implemented by First Kids.

OUTDOORS IS THE GOAL FOR ALL EVENTS with Davis Hall available as a last minute, due to weather situation ONLY. We are working on a large tent for the lawn which will also help.

FINALLY, In Person Worship. As soon as we begin in person worship we will begin live streaming to our YouTube channel.

Fortunately, there is a detailed plan in place to safely to do this. It has been on the shelf since October. We have followed the local data and trends and are confident in the ability for our church family to do this in a safe way, just as private and public schools have been able to open for students.....and that means adhering to these previously set forth guidelines:

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1. If you have not been on campus, there is a mask and social distancing policy – with posted notices throughout. This applies to the Sanctuary, too.
2. The pews have been roped off to allow for social distancing and ushers will seat you
3. You will need to sign up in order to attend worship on Sunday mornings (and at this time we will only have one service at 11am)....there is a limit of 70 people inside the Sanctuary (this includes the specially trained ushers). There will be an additional 40 seats available, outside, that can also be signed up for weekly.
4. There will be no collection of offering (we will continue to text to give) and there will be no communion.
5. The choir will sing (masked in choir loft) but at this time the congregation will not
6. The Minister (s) will not exit down the aisle at the end of service to greet parishioners
7. PLEASE use the same acts of respect and safety you have used all these months as we begin to reopen for worship....**MASKS are a must.**

We anticipate being able to begin in person worship on **May 16th** (with the sign up genius going live a week before), as long as there is not an Easter spike of Covid-19.

We will continue to monitor local data and trends and loosen or tighten restrictions as that data directs. Session will be updated accordingly and NEWS updates for the congregation can be found on the home page of the church website under the “NEWS” tab, beginning this week. So, if you are asked you can direct folks to the website for information and up-to-date protocols.