

Reopening First Pres Kingwood

Video Announcement — May 28, 2020

- Chad

- Hi church! Your session has been meeting every two weeks throughout this shutdown to discern God's will for us as a church. This past Monday night, we voted and unanimously approved a Phased reopening plan, and today, Mark and I want to begin to share the details of that plan with you!
- Before we get into the details, first be reminded of the guiding principles the session adopted to help us discern when and how to take steps toward reopening our campus.
 1. we will make decisions that are guided by the Holy Spirit, focused on pastoral care for our congregation, and personal responsibility.
 2. we will make decisions that will provide for the spiritual health and physical safety of all our covenant partners, active participants, guests, and staff. We will reopen in a manner that includes as many people as possible so that we aren't the cause of further isolation.
 3. we will make decisions that will challenge us to continue the creative and innovative spirit that this time of crisis has revealed in us.

- Mark

- Before we go over the details with you, for those of you who have been on a mission trip, you'll understand the journey we are about to take. We have a plan, we have some dates, we have worked out every detail and considered every possible problem that could arise...but, just like on a mission trip, something will inevitably go wrong and our plans will have to change! So the keyword for this season is FLEXIBLE! Our staff and session will be flexible, ready to adjust as needed in order to serve you and provide ministry opportunities for you, and we are asking the same of you. So we would like to ask you to be flexible, and continue to be gracious and kind to us as we do the best we can to be both the Gathered and Sent Church.

- Chad

- Our plan is made up of 4 phases, Phase I describes what we have already been doing since March 15. In the event that there is an outbreak in our area or a second wave in our country later on this year, if we ever feel it is wise to go back into shutdown mode again, we want to make sure that we know exactly what to do on day one.
- That means that what we are announcing today is our move from Phase I to Phase II, which will begin the week of June 1st!
- Our principles and our strategy required that we consider ways to reopen ministries across the board rather than simply find a way to return to worship.

- So starting with our discipleship ministries, we are inviting 5 pre-selected groups to return to the campus beginning next week. These groups were pre-selected by a team that evaluated our ministries and determined which ones would most benefit from returning to the campus. We also have to keep in mind our capacity to host them in a safe and clean environment, we feel this is the best way to start. These 5 ministries have been contacted and are determining if they are ready to accept this invitation.
- As we are able, other groups may be added to the Phase II reopening. If you believe your group would benefit from having access to the building again, simply fill out the request form found on our website and we will be in contact with you. Many factors will help us determine if we can accommodate your group in our Phase II plan or if you might be better suited for Phase III or IV.
- Mark
 - On to community and missions, our Sent Groups have been launched! It's not too late to join in, simply fill out the form online to be a part of this ministry.
 - In Phase II, we would like to encourage those of you who are willing to host "In-Home Worship." If you can provide a safe and clean space with appropriate physical distance, please invite your Sent Group, your small group, Bible study, your neighbors, etc., to join you as you participate in our weekly online service from home on Sunday. In Phase II, we recommend groups of 10-12. We will provide guidance for preparing your space and establishing safe practices if requested.
 - We will also share information with you about day trip opportunities to serve with the Houston Food Bank, HAMM and other ministry partners.
- Chad
 - Now, let's talk about worship. For reasons that are outside of our control, we aren't able to provide both an online worship service and host in-person services on Sundays. In order to be consistent with our principle not to leave anyone out, we feel it's important to continue to pre-record worship services that are available for you to engage with and participate in every Sunday morning.
 - However, we have found a creative way to begin in-person worship services in Phase II. We record our services on Wednesday evenings. Starting June 3rd, you can register to be part of a group of 50 people who will join us for a live worship service that will be made available online the following Sunday morning.
 - Here's how it will work, it's a little complicated, but this is the best way to involve as many of you as possible.
 - On June 3rd at 5:00pm, the first 50 people who register will join us as we record our traditional service;

- Then, on June 10th at 7:00pm, the first 50 people who register will join us as we record our contemporary service;
- June 17th, traditional recording at 5, June 24th, contemporary recording at 7. This alternating pattern will continue throughout Phase II.
- On Sunday, both styles of worship will still be made available online, we are simply hosting one group at a time for the recording on Wednesdays so that we don't have more than one group in the sanctuary on any given day.
- We are asking that you only register one time per month for our Wednesday service recordings. Inviting you in once per month allows us to see at least 200 of you during these first 4 weeks...as much as we want to see your faces, we have set up this system so that we aren't only seeing the same 50 faces each week.
- Registrations will go live every Sunday morning at 8:15 and will close on Tuesday morning at 8:15. If you are one of the first 50, you'll receive a confirmation email along with a set of instructions for arrival and the restrictions we are asking you to observe so that we can provide a safe and clean, physically distanced environment for worship.

- Mark

- As we prepare the facility to have you join us for worship and other ministry opportunities, we will have some restrictions and guidelines. As Chad mentioned, those will be communicated to you before you arrive on campus.
- For everyone, we want to ask you to exercise personal responsibility and make wise choices concerning your participation. We have established three risk categories:
 1. **High Risk:** Typically age 60+ with pre-existing conditions; however, anyone with the following conditions regardless of age: lung disease/asthma, heart condition, those who are immunocompromised, liver disease, diabetes or chronic kidney disease.
 2. **Moderate Risk:** Typically age 60+ without pre-existing conditions
 3. **Low Risk:** Typically <60 without pre-existing conditions
- I will personally be scanning the crowd for anyone who appears to be symptomatic; so please, for your health and for the safety of your church family, do not come if you are experiencing any Covid related symptoms. Don't make me kick you out of church!

- Chad

- Phase II is designed at those of you who fall in the moderate and low risk categories. At this time, if you are in the high risk category, please continue to worship with us online. Let us know how we can serve you, how we can minister to you during this time. If we can help address your increasing isolation and loneliness, we will do what we can. We love you, it is not our intention to exclude you, but you are not expendable to us!