

July 27, 2020

Dear EFCGV Church Family:

Your church leadership met this Monday morning and we are unanimous and excited: **we will reopen the church, onsite, on Sunday morning, August 9.**

Let me make this as simple as possible:

1. **We will have two identical Sunday morning services, at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM onsite.** Because the services are identical, only the first service will be live-streamed, with a recording of that service placed immediately thereafter on our website and Facebook pages.
2. **Masks will be required and enforced, not merely suggested.** By now all of us have adjusted to required masks, as we go to the grocery store, shop, and live our lives. Masks protect other people. Although masks do not eliminate all risks, general wisdom affirms that they greatly reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 as well as colds and flu.
3. **Physical capacity for Sunday services is safely conservative and will be upheld.** We will allow 30% capacity in our sanctuary (120), first come, first served. Our church Fellowship Center will serve as overflow and then the new classrooms, if needed. When we reopened before onsite, we averaged 125 per service. This 30% capacity allows us to comfortably seat 200 people in our facility for each service (all three venues combined) at social distance for reopening day, August 9.
4. **We will also increase options and give 100% enthusiastic support to those of you who choose to wait before you come back to anything onsite.** We will, as an example, start an online-Zoom-church-prayer meeting soon. If you wish to be involved, please contact our church office by email or phone. When Pastor Capen returns, we will address the opportunities of online small groups.

**5. Contact Church Administrator Jack Taylor at the church office to discuss how your ministry can reestablish an onsite presence.**

Our reopening news does give us the opportunity to apply the biblical concept of “honoring one another in love” (Romans 12:10). We ask that those who choose to worship at home defer in united love to those who choose to worship onsite. We ask that those who chose to worship onsite defer in united love to those who worship at home. And we pray that all will honor your leaders’ decision to require masks and to cap sanctuary attendance.

God has blessed this church greatly as He fills us with hope. To Him be all the glory...and please keep your church leadership in prayer.

Pastor Steve Doug Uthman Tom Dowdy