

First Christian Church Valdosta

Reopening Plan

The following committee convened on May 13th to discuss logistics for reopening our church:

- Rusty McCall (board chair)
- Donald Altman (board vice chair)
- John Chick (minister)
- Jason Davenport (education & youth)
- Steve Patelski (children's ministry)
- Yvonne Wyche (everything else)
- Marti Schert (choir)
- Dora Zajac (deacon chair)
- Kathryn Williams (elder chair)

The church will reopen on Sunday, June 7th with the following considerations and logistical procedures in place:

- You should only resume attending church on June 7th and thereafter if you are feeling physically well and are not worried about possible exposure to the Covid-19 virus. First Christian Church is taking precautions to protect the safety of those attending, but cannot ensure such. Please consider your present health and physical situation. Attendance is at your own risk. Attending out of guilt or compulsion is foolish.
- For those who are unable or do not yet feel comfortable returning to church, each service will be streamed live on Facebook. It will also be recorded and available a few days later on the church's Facebook page, our YouTube channel and the church website.
- All Bible study classes are suspended until further notice. Sunday service time is 11am-12pm as usual.
- Sunday school classes for children will occur Sundays from 10am-12pm. Steve Patelski and Jason Davenport will work to ensure proper distancing of the children.
- Until further notice, there will be no Wednesday evening service, activities or associated meal.
- Board meetings will resume on June 18th, and then the 3rd Thursday of the month thereafter.
- We are planning on resuming Sunday fellowship lunches on July 26th, and then the third Sunday of each month thereafter. This first lunch on July 26th will not be a traditional covered dish meal, but instead a catered event that we are planning, outside if weather permits.
- No date has been determined to resume the elder breakfast meetings. Kathryn Williams will advise the elders of the next breakfast meeting date...
- Access points into the building will remain: fellowship hall, Alden Ave. and sanctuary. These doors will be propped open during typical arrival and departure times to avoid one having to touch the door handle.
- The church will not be providing personal protective gear. You are advised to provide your own face mask and gloves should you wish to wear them. Be advised that the use of face masks or gloves is not required, and is therefore an individual choice. If you are uncomfortable being around others who are not wearing a face mask, you may choose to move to the fellowship hall where increased social distancing is possible.
- Prior to the activities for each Sunday, the sanctuary, fellowship hall, choir room and any classrooms utilized by the children will be fogged with a sanitizing chemical. Hand sanitizer will be provided at each of the aforementioned entry points to the building.

- All drinking fountains, coffee stations and water coolers will be closed. You are advised to bring your own beverage should you need something to drink. To avoid damage to carpet or upholstery in the sanctuary, only bottled water will be allowed in the sanctuary.
- We will resume the current, in-place schedule for elders and deacons serving each Sunday with one caveat. Only the designated presiding elder will officiate at the communion table. There will not be an elder at the table for either the prayer for the bread or the cup. If you are uncomfortable serving your scheduled time as presiding elder on June 7th or any Sunday thereafter, it is your duty and responsibility to find an elder willing to serve in your place and advise Yvonne Wyche at the church office of the substitution. The customary prayers are being slightly rescripted by Jason Davenport. Presiding elders will be given this updated format for the table...
- Lay readers will be suspended until further notice to prevent crowding of John and Marti behind the pulpit. John will deliver the morning benediction, the responsive reading and prayer.
- Seating capacity in the sanctuary will be reduced to half the normal capacity. The pews will be blocked off in a checkerboard pattern, with only half of each pew available (see attached illustration). Each available seating area (highlighted in green) may only be utilized by related family members. You may not sit with your friend, even if you both consent to sitting together. Those coming alone will therefore end up sitting alone in an available seating location. This arrangement may limit seating capacity such that there is not enough space for everyone. If you cannot find an available seating location, please find a place to sit in the fellowship hall and watch the service on the television. An accommodation will be made to provide communion to anyone who chooses to sit in the fellowship hall.
- The 4 deacons scheduled for each Sunday will be asked to hand out bulletins and assist with the delivery of communion. On each side of the communion table, there will be a rolling cart with the bread and juice in individual cups. There will be one deacon at each cart to hand each parishioner a bread and a juice cup as they pass each cart. The other two deacons will serve as ushers to alternately release one row at a time on either side of the sanctuary for those seated to proceed forward to the communion cart on their respective side. Please take the elements back to your seat and wait to consume each until directed to do so by the presiding elder.
- Weekly tithes and offerings will be placed in an offering plate located on the corner of the communion table as you come forward to receive the elements.
- Marti Schert will handle scheduling of a limited number of choir members such that they may remain a proper distance apart. Please note that due to the very nature of singing (expulsion of air and potentially saliva) there will be no singing by parishioners, until further notice.
- To avoid cross contamination, hymnals, Bibles and cards located in the pews will be removed. Please bring your personal Bible to service. There will be a time in the service for those asking for prayers to rise and verbally request such.

Please forgive what seems to be draconian or militaristic measures that we are implementing. The plan is to start back with the least amount of restrictions/precautions necessary, and gradually remove these month-by-month going forward provided that the overall situation and outlook continues to improve.



True North



Plan

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"