

CGF English Congregation
COVID-19/Coronavirus Regathering Plan
*****7/27/20 UPDATE**

*I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!” (Psalm 122:1)*

Introduction

Thank you to those who responded to our recent Regathering Survey. We received 42 responses, most of which expressed a desire to regather as soon as possible. On behalf of the Core Team, I can say that we share those same sentiments and are glad you feel the same way. The book of Hebrews stresses the importance of regularly gathering (Hebrews 10:25), and so during this critical juncture, we want to give great consideration to three things: (1) That we honor our Lord through physically regathering; (2) that we acknowledge your own willingness and desire to regather; and (3) that we follow guidelines and recommendations by state and government officials.

I am grateful to every one of you in advance for your patience and flexibility as we take these initial steps. I hope you all have been well these last few months, may the Lord continue to protect and guide us.

To God be the glory,
Pastor Brett

Phase 1 (UPDATED 7/27/20)

1. “Soft regatherings” on July 26, 2020, August 2, and **(UPDATE) *August 8 (Saturday)**.
 - a. Though it will not be a mere rehearsal (it will be an actual worship service), this service will help our team to test processes and protocols, ensuring that things run more smoothly on August 16. During this soft regathering, the majority of the congregation will continue to worship at home.
2. **“Grand regathering” on (UPDATE) *August 15, 2020 (Saturday) at 9:30am**
 - a. During this phase we will open the sanctuary at 25% capacity. Currently, the CGF sanctuary has a seating capacity of 200 people, which means that only 50 people will be allowed in the sanctuary.
3. Prior to entry, ushers will be taking temperatures of attendees.
4. We will have a table in the entryway with hand sanitizer. People will be required to use hand sanitizer both before they enter the sanctuary and when they leave the sanctuary following Sunday Worship.
5. Ushers will sign-in attendees, who will need to provide contact information (phone number and email address). Should any attendees test positive for COVID, we will need to quickly notify the other attendees.

6. We will have sections of the pews marked for people to sit in order to provide social distancing standards and to encourage us to spread out around the sanctuary.
7. Handshakes and hugs will be discouraged.
8. Front doors and sanctuary doors will be propped open so people do not have to touch the handles. Once service begins, sanctuary doors will be closed and will be opened for latecomers by ushers wearing gloves
9. Wearing a mask is required at all times. The pastor, presider, and praise leader will perform duties without a mask, but will wear a mask when they are not performing service duties (e.g. teaching, speaking, singing).
 - a. Regarding congregational singing, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initially warned against singing because of aerosol transmission, but that assertion was removed in their latest guidelines.
 - b. We will, however, sing with the congregation wearing masks. We will also lessen the amount of songs we sing, from the usual four to three songs.
10. There will be no live Sunday School classes in this phase.
11. Additionally, during this phase there will be no nursery and childcare for children from birth to Pre-K during Sunday Worship. During this phase, we will continue to record and play the service on YouTube for those still uncomfortable attending and for families with young children.
12. Offering collection will not be done via passing of baskets. Rather, an offering box will be placed in the back of the sanctuary. Online giving will continue to be an option via our website (em.cgfchurch.org).
13. After everyone has exited, the Sanitizing Team will stay and disinfect the areas used.

*We realize this may sound like a bit much, but we would rather over prepare and gradually lighten some of these guidelines than return to gather together ill-prepared and put people in unnecessary danger. Our aim is to make sure all feel reassured that we have adequately prepared for regathering. **UPDATE: We also understand that making service on Saturdays may be difficult due to already existing commitments~ not to mention the issue of parking in the city on a Saturday. However, the decision to move worship to Saturday ensures that both Chinese and English congregations have ample time to sanitize the worship space before and after use. Worshipping on Saturday will be temporary as it is our desire to eventually find a permanent space to worship on Sundays.***

Phase 2

1. We will open our sanctuary to 50% capacity, this should allow all of our members to physically attend, should they feel comfortable doing so. (As our normal service attendance ranges from 60 to 70 people, our sanctuary can comfortably hold all of our English Congregation, even while continuing to enforce social distancing standards.
2. Communion will be resumed. It will be prepared and administered with proper protection (gloves, bread in individual cups). The ushers will serve the elements in gloves while

holding the communion plates themselves (as opposed to letting the congregation pass them around).

3. We will continue to enforce maintaining a safe distance between attendees in the sanctuary
4. Handshakes and hugs will continue to be discouraged.
5. We will continue to provide hand sanitizer in the entryway.
6. In-person Sunday School classes will continue to be on hiatus until further notice.
7. Nursery and childcare for children from birth to Pre-K during Sunday Worship will only be offered to leaders and volunteers during this phase. Service will continue to be available on our YouTube channel.
8. Front doors and sanctuary doors will remain propped open so people do not have to touch the handles.
9. Wearing a mask throughout the service will continue to be required.
10. We will continue to stream the service on YouTube, though we will begin encouraging members to consider resuming physical attendance.
11. The collection of offerings will continue to be done online or via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary.
12. After everyone has exited, a cleaning crew will stay and disinfect the areas we used to prepare for Chinese congregation worship.