

Re-Entry Plans

Flushing Community Church of the Nazarene

The Dilemma:

Over the past 3 months, our state, nation, and world has struggled to understand the impact and risk involved with the COVID-19 virus. Everyone has felt the impact of changes to our daily lives. Many have lost jobs, schools and teachers have done their best to keep our children learning and engaged. Shopping for food and basic necessities has caused many anxiety and fear.

During all this, we have had to adjust to new social distance norms which feel awkward at best. Zoom meetings keep organizations moving forward, but they lack meaningful human interaction. In our journey with Jesus, we recognize the critical relational connection with God and with others. While our church has continued to meet online, we still feel the lost of being with each other.

The Question:

While the dilemma is not debatable, our response to it certainly is. Medical and scientific professionals are still learning a great amount about this coronavirus and must remains unknown. There is no clear treatment and vaccines are in early trials. So, the question is: when can we get back to life as we knew it? And part of the answer is: for some – never. New normal will be learned as we all assess the risks for ourselves and our family and friends. The other part of the answer is that some can begin to re-introduce ourselves to social situations as our personal health allows. With this in mind, we all must make personal decisions on what we view as safe or risky behavior.

Our Response:

In May, our Church Board allowed Pastor Terry to form a COVID-19 Re-Entry Team to look at the variables to make this decision. This team was chosen by considering professional experiences and education. We have 2 medical professionals, several business leaders and educators who have had to make decisions in their environment. These people love their church and desire to make the best recommendations based on research and personal conviction. They do not represent extremes within the responses to COVID-19 and have gone above and beyond to hear the multiple voices of concern and conspiracy.

Why Public Worship:

Online worship offers prayer, praise, and the spoken Word of God. So, why do we feel the need to re-engage with public (or in-person) worship? Essentially because the human to human element of church is vitally important for the mission of the church to continue forward: to experience the transforming love of God and share it with others. Many have acknowledged a real struggle to get children to be ready for “PJ Church” and many others struggle with staying focused and feel awkward about singing to the Lord in their homes. The bottom line is that church without people just does not feel like church anymore. Worshiping with others encourages the follower of Christ!

What will our public worship look like?

Our Team, Pastoral Staff and elected Board have reviewed the following protocols for our worship services and appreciate your support. This is not a perfect plan, but it has been written by considering several key truths:

- 1) If you are sick, you should continue to watch our services online.
- 2) If you are at risk to have serious complications with COVID-19, we encourage you to play it safe and watch online!
- 3) If you are interested in returning to worship please take precautions in doing so. Be mindful of other's points of view by demonstrating love and respect always.
- 4) As more information and data becomes apparent to us, changes in our plan will undoubtedly take place. This could allow us to open more areas and ministries; or this could force us to become even more restrictive. Time will tell and we will be ready to adjust!

Here are the following precautions we are taking to assist with Social Distancing Standards:

- 1) We have added a service specifically for those who are at the highest risk. Saturday, 7PM is a new time that ensures the building is at its peak cleanliness and we will ask ALL attendees to wear masks throughout the service. When someone is on the stage (worship, prayer, preaching, etc) masks will not be required to enhance communication.
- 2) We have added 30 additional minutes between our Sunday morning services to increase our time for cleaning and preparation. Our new Sunday times will be 9AM & 11AM. Each service is targeted to be at or slightly under 1 hour in duration. We will have identified seating for 'at-risk' friends. Everyone entering the church will come through the new Café entrance and exiting will take place through the original building entrance. While masks are encouraged, we will not be mandating them at these services (this will be a personal decision and we believe everyone can respect one another).
- 3) To help us ease back into public worship, we will not be offering Kid City Ministries (birth-6th grade) nor Sunday morning Gathering for adults and teens. *We hope to re-introduce these opportunities within a few weeks of continued monitoring of the situation.*
- 4) To further our attention on virus transference, we will be setting up anti-bacterial hand sanitizer stations throughout the building, all doors will remain open, and our Gathering Place Café will be closed.

How can you help?

- 1) Be Positive:** While we know that you may disagree with our decision to start public worship services, we hope that you will remain prayerful and positive. We are all doing our best and there is a great amount of information to consider from social, psychological, and spiritual points of view. We desire only the best for you and your loved ones. Concerns can be shared with Pastor Terry directly. Unhealthy, non-supportive conversations with others can unintentionally create significant division within a faith community.
- 2) Be Safe:** If there is any reason at all you should stay home, we encourage you to do so. Further, we want you to know that you can call on your church leaders to assist you in any way to keep you safe. Our online services will remain so that no one will miss out on anything at the church.
- 3) Be Involved:** If you are healthy and able, we are going to need more help in opening the church for public worship. A VOLUNTEER FORM is available on The HUB listing all the areas we could use help. We will be offering behavior standards and training for each volunteer so that we all work together as a team keeping our community safe while experiencing encouraging and uplifting worship.

Volunteers are needed for:

Greeting: we need more greeters to make up for those who cannot volunteer.

Cleaning: we will need volunteers to assist in cleaning between service times.

Safety Team: we need additional team members to assist in the parking lot and for those who can't volunteer due to their personal risk.

Technical Team: new equipment is coming to assist us in creating an online presence live instead of pre-recorded. We will need camera crews and those who like to edit and mix audio or video on the fly.