



cherry creek pres

**Dear Cherry Creek Family:**

This pandemic year has put enormous strain on all of us. It has changed—many times—the way we gather to worship on Sundays. We have met on-line only, in Cherry Bowl services outdoors, and with only 50 people in the Worship Center. Thank you for your flexibility in all of these changes!

We added a ton of technology: a state-of-the-art air purification system, and the sound and video equipment necessary to stream on-line well. While we lost several amazing people to Covid, by God's goodness we did not have a single outbreak of Covid-19 which began at Cherry Creek this year with this purification system in place. Our God is good!

Through each “nimble” change, as Elders we have sought to keep Jesus central and meet several key goals:

1. To allow each person to worship Jesus completely and with as few distractions as possible.
2. To keep people as safe as possible while they worship and gather.
3. To honor the Bible and comply with the governmental regulations when possible (per Mark 12:17, Rom. 13:1-7, 1 Tim. 2:1-3, Titus 3:1, Heb. 13:17, 1 Peter 2:13).
4. To avoid turning people away from church, or making staff or volunteers enforcement agents.
5. To love each other deeply, and to never judge people who might fall into different places on the Covid safety continuum.

**These remain our goals as governmental standards continue to relax. More and more people have been coming to worship in person since before Easter, and it is harder and harder each week to have the room for social distancing.** Recently, the State of Colorado classified worship services as critical meetings, and removed any mandated standards. Influenced by the growing vaccination levels and the extremely low hospitalization/death rates, Tri-County health has also reduced our regulations, and may remove all mandates for all places in a few weeks.

To meet these changes, Cherry Creek will begin to loosen our restrictions as well. Our plan is to move deliberately but carefully to a place where those who choose to attend worship in person have few or no restrictions in the coming weeks.

Last night, after much prayer and discussion, the Session unanimously passed the below recommendations for modifying the Covid-19 rules at our 8:45 and 10:30 worship services (for all Worship gatherings):

1. **NO REGISTRATION** **As of now, on-line registration will no longer be required.** RATIONALE—registration has ceased to be an effective way of managing capacity, and is no longer required by the State.

2. **REMOVE MANY OF THE PEW ROPES**                      **As of May 9, we will only rope off about 1/3 of the Worship Center rows for people who prefer more social distance.** Those attending should self-regulate comfortable distances between households in the rest of the Worship Center. **RATIONALE**— Allowing people to choose to worship together in person is an essential Christian activity. In person attendance continues to grow in both worship services as enough people are self-selecting to come to worship. In order to not turn people away, we must allow additional room for people to join worship.
3. **FUEL**                      **We will continue to social distance at tables in Fuel for both services.** This allows another distancing option for those who desire it.
4. **ON-LINE WORSHIP**                      **We will continue to live-stream both the 8:45 and 10:30 service for people to worship while remaining at home.** People who are ill in any way, at-risk, or uncomfortable with the spacing in the Worship Center we invite you to worship with us at home. You remain a key part of our church, and we miss you. We will be continue on-line worship into the future to keep you involved.
5. **MASKING**                      **As of May 9 as well, we will ask people to mask while entering, leaving, or moving about inside our building. Masking will be voluntary at all other times, including while singing and while outdoors.** **RATIONALE**—To honor our Lord, we seek to continue to honor government requirements when we can do so without violating our conscience. This masking guideline matches government requests.
6. **OTHER NON-WORSHIP MEETINGS**                      **As of now, we will continue limits based on a 6-foot spacing limit for non-worship events, like ASF or group meetings.** We are awaiting further definitions from the State and TriCounty Health on social-distancing requirements for non-worship gatherings; our expectations are that these, too, will change soon.

As with all changes, these movements might be a bit messy at first. People will need to learn new patterns. Please be gracious with each other and with us. We are excited to begin to open up more, and can't wait to be back to more normal church.

**Serving a Living Jesus with You,  
FOR THE ELDERS  
Brad**





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