



June 8, 2020

Dear RMPC Family,

I have been looking forward to writing this email for a long time. After 12 weeks of virtual worship, we will resume in-person worship this coming Sunday, June 14! Praise God! I realize that many people will have to stay at home for their own safety. But it is wonderful to know that the church is gathering together again.

I want to emphasize that there is no pressure to attend worship in-person. We should never experience stigma as a result of doing what we think is necessary to protect ourselves as people made in God's image. The Session encourages you to stay home and worship virtually if you are over 65, or if you suffer from a health condition that makes you more vulnerable to COVID-19 (respiratory conditions, heart conditions, immunocompromised, diabetes, etc.).

If you choose to attend worship in-person, we will be following guidelines released by the governor's office. These guidelines were developed by the Colorado Health Department, in consultation with a small team of local faith leaders. To limit the spread of COVID-19 during corporate worship, RMPC will put the following measures in place.

- We are limited to 50% of our sanctuary's capacity or up to 50 people. To maintain proper social distancing, we will offer two worship services at 9:00am and 11:00am. As a way of ensuring that one service does not become too crowded, we ask that you make a reservation. Every week we will send out an email via Signup Genius, which will give you the opportunity to sign up for which service you would like to attend. Reservations will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis. The signup email will arrive in your inbox every Tuesday morning, starting tomorrow.
- In the guidelines provided by the state, masks are strongly recommended but not required. These guidelines also allow people leading the service to remove their masks *during the performance of their duties* (preaching, singing and leading liturgy).
- You can use three entrances to get into the sanctuary: one of the large main doors, the small east-side door (with the keypad), and the north-side door (the back door on the wall with the cross). Please make use of these extra entrances to help minimize

crowding. If there is a line of people waiting to enter the church, we ask that you maintain six feet of distance between families. If possible, consider using another entrance that is less crowded.

- We will maintain six feet of social distance between family units. In God's providence, we transitioned from pews to chairs on the main floor of the sanctuary right as COVID-19 spread to Colorado. Every other row of chairs on the main floor will be removed and stored in the basement to facilitate social distancing between families. There are still pews in the balcony, so we ask that you leave every other pew empty.
- Instead of receiving a bulletin as you walk in the door, bulletins will be placed on the chairs and pews before the service.
- In an effort to minimize physical contact, and to prevent volunteers from feeling pressured to serve, we are making the following changes to our Sunday morning ministries:
 - Nursery and Jr. Church are closed.
 - Rather than passing the offering bags, there will be an offering box in the back of the sanctuary where you can place your tithes and offerings before or after the service.
 - No greeters are necessary. The staff and the elders will greet you as you enter the sanctuary.
 - There will be no coffee or snacks. After the service, we encourage you to enjoy a socially-distanced time of fellowship outside the church building.
- Only two people at a time will be allowed in each restroom, with an exception for parents helping their children. If a line forms outside the restroom, please maintain proper distance.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the table where we normally have the bulletins, as well as the communion table in the balcony. Please use it frequently, in addition to hand-washing for 20 seconds.
- Please refrain from all physical contact, including shaking hands and hugging.
- The basement will be closed and remain off-limits in order to minimize common surface areas for potential exposure.
- At the end of the worship service, we will ask families to leave the sanctuary one row at a time, beginning with those in the back and moving forward. Again, we ask that you make use of the extra doors.
- Between services we will disinfect restrooms and key surfaces, including door handles and tables.
- We have decided to offer the Lord's Supper for those who want to take it. Participation is strictly voluntary, and no stigma will be attached to families that opt-out. Indeed, we anticipate that several families will choose not to take the sacrament, so no one should

feel singled out. For those who choose to participate, we will take the following steps to limit the spread of COVID-19.

- One person will be allowed into the basement to prepare the Lord's Supper. While wearing a mask and gloves, they will cut the bread into cubes and fill the cups with wine and juice. (Note: prepackaged wafers and cups of juice are sold out and on backorder.)
- There will be one serving station on the main floor of the sanctuary, and one in the balcony. Each station will have one person serving. Those serving will wear gloves and masks. They will hand each person a cube of bread and cup of wine or juice.
- We will ask families to come up to receive the elements one at a time, from the front of the sanctuary to the back, while the rest of the families remain seated. There will be hand sanitizer available at the table if you choose to use it.
- While one family is being served, we will ask the next family to wait "on deck" at a mark six feet away from the Communion table. There will be a mark in the center aisle of the main floor, and another in the balcony.
- Initially there will be no prayer stations during the Lord's Supper, as a way of minimizing crowding.
- The serving platters will be washed between services.

I realize that many of these restrictions are less than ideal, but we are thrilled to be able to gather together for worship. Our complete plan for reopening in-person worship has multiple phases, so we will loosen restrictions as circumstances allow. As always, if you have any questions please contact your elder or me. This Sunday some will be present physically, while others will be present virtually and in spirit. But we praise God for being able to gather together again as the body of Christ.

In His Grip,

Pastor Shane

On Behalf of the RMPC Session