

FROM OUR FACILITIES RE-ENTRY TEAM: Updated Phases for Returning to Worshiping Together in Our Sanctuary

Beginning a year ago, our church formed a “Facilities Re-Entry Team” to monitor and guide our eventual return to on-site worship and other gatherings in our beautiful church facilities. This group has met regularly for conversation and prayer, monitoring the effects of the Covid19 Pandemic as reported by the Tarrant County Health Department and considering implications for the safety and well-being of all members of our congregation.

In response to the recent weeks-long decline of Covid-related hospitalizations in Tarrant County, plus the recent increase in vaccine distribution, The Team has updated the Phases for our return to worshiping together in our sanctuary. It is important to note that ALL OF THESE STEPS ARE CONTINGENT UPON A CONTINUING DECLINE IN COVID-RELATED HOSPITALIZATIONS, AS WELL AS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN VACCINE DISTRIBUTION. Any spike or other increase in local Covid19 hospitalizations will call us to move back from these phases, as **safety for all** continues to be our highest priority. Additionally, all gatherings at the church, whether indoor or outdoor, will continue to require mask-wearing, social distancing and other safety measures promoted by the CDC.

Our plan is to follow this calendar of “phases”:

On April 4, Easter Sunday, our Easter Services will be held outdoors, with a “sunrise” service at 7:30am and an outdoor service at 10am, both on the lawn by The Crosses. The 10am service *will also be available online* as we currently offer. Masks will be required and chairs will be placed on the church lawn for safe seating of individuals and household groups. If you would like, you are welcome to bring flowers for “flowering the crosses” as is our Easter tradition. IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER our Easter Sunday worship will revert to a 10am online only service. We will communicate to the congregation by phone and Facebook by Saturday evening if outdoor worship cannot happen. Join us in praying for good weather! Sunday April 11 will be the 10am Online worship as has been our recent practice.

On **Sunday April 18** we plan to hold 10am worship outdoors by the crosses again. This will also be broadcast online.

If new Covid-related hospitalizations in Tarrant County continue to decline, then

Beginning Sunday April 25, we will continue our 10am service online *and add* an in-person service in the sanctuary at **5pm** for 3 Sundays. This will be a shorter service with limited music, sermon and Communion. Masks, social distancing and designated seating will be required. We invite those who are vaccinated and/or otherwise feel safe, to gather for this special service which will also be a way for us to prepare for May 16. These evening worships will not be broadcast.

If new Covid-related hospitalizations in Tarrant County continue to decline, then

On Sunday May 16 we hope to return to weekly worship in the sanctuary at 10am, with masks, social distancing, and designated spacing in the pews. We will continue broadcasting these services online into the future as well. With this return to in-person 10am worship, we will discontinue the 5pm services.

Again, your Facilities Re-Entry Team wants to clarify that these are Phases which build one upon the other, and all of these steps are contingent upon a continuing decline in Covid19-related hospitalizations, as well as continued success in vaccine distribution.

We realize that there will be some church members who continue to be wary of coming to a group gathering. Be assured that there will be no pressure to do so and you will continue to have full access to our 10am worship services online. And you will continue to be valued as a participant in our worshipping the Lord together! Likewise, there will be church members who feel that this new Phase plan is too slow and cautionary. Our hope and prayer is that we will come through these months still united in our faith in Christ and love for one another. This is our witness to the world as the Body of Christ.

Sincerely serving you and seeking your prayers and support,

The FCC Arlington Facilities Re-Entry Team:

Dan Casto, Church Board Moderator

Rex Stewart, Board Vice-Moderator

Lyn Herring, Chair of the Elders

Paul Shannon, Property Ministry Chair

Carol Neff, Worship Ministry Chair

Jill Samuelson, Chair of the Deacons

And your church Ministry Staff,

Don Wilson, Bill Jeffreys, Dana Lobaugh and Carol Wilson