

June 9, 2020

Dear Grace Family,

We are excited to announce that we have plans to start meeting once again in person as a church to worship. These past few months have been an extraordinary time of upheaval in our world and local community. In closing the physical operations of Grace we were acting as good citizens and out of concern for the vulnerable in our congregation. The incidence of COVID-19 in our community has been decreasing since April 10th and continues to do so. The Elder board believes that it will soon be safe to resume in-person worship at Grace. Below you will find our plans for re-opening.

- **Stage 1 – Limited Seating Phase**– From July 5th through July 18th – We will meet in the church for Sunday Morning Worship services with limited sanctuary seating and overflow in the fellowship hall. There will be no children’s ministries (including nursery) available during this time.
- **Stage 2 – Open Seating Phase** – July 19th – All seating and spacing restrictions will be removed. Limited children’s programs will be available on Sunday Mornings for the remainder of the summer.

The reason for two stages is to provide time to evaluate the effectiveness of our measures and to ensure there has not been increased community spread of COVID -19.

We thank the Lord for his continued provision for Grace during this time.

Serving the Lord,
The GBFC Elder Board

Plan for Reopening the Facility

As an elder board we understand that there is a wide variety of views concerning the re-opening of our facility. In developing this plan, the elders want to be prudent in providing the opportunity for those who desire to worship and gather together and at the same time encourage those who still have reservations to be free to continue worshiping through our livestream ministry. We are asking that all of us lovingly keep in mind the following:

1. Anyone who does not feel comfortable gathering should stay home and watch the livestream or recording of the service. Regardless of your decision, please know that we love you and want to continue to support you. We ask that everyone adopt a no-judgment mentality toward anyone who gathers or anyone who chooses to stay quarantined at this time.
2. For any GBFC event, if you are feeling sick, please do not attend. If you are unsure, follow “When in doubt, don’t go out.”
3. When we come together be mindful of others. Although you may have a strong desire to shake hands or hug one another we ask that you refrain from doing so during Stage 1.
4. **During stage 1 we will require wearing a mask when you are not in your designated seat. Please bring your own mask.**
5. For Sunday Morning Worship during the Limited Seating Phase (stage 1), you will be guided to a sanctuary entrance and you will be seated by an usher, it may not be in your normal seat. Please be patient and cooperative as the process may take longer. If you are not able to be in the sanctuary due to the capacity having been met, we ask that you willingly sit in the fellowship hall where our ushers will guide you to your seat.
6. We will be cleaning and disinfecting the sanctuary, fellowship hall and bathrooms prior to each service. We will also be cleaning other areas of the church that are used for small groups or youth. The cleaning procedures have been developed by our cleaning service in coordination with Roger Gilbert and the Deacons and have been approved by the Elder Board.
7. Although we are endeavoring to do our best to have a clean facility, we cannot eliminate all risks. Anyone who is concerned should take necessary precautions by avoiding touching their face, by using hand sanitizer, and by wearing a mask or staying at home in the near term.

Stage 1 – Limited Seating Phase (July 5 – July 18)

The first Sunday that we will be holding in-person worship services with limited seating will be on July 5th. The plan will be followed for 2 weeks.

We will hold our service at 11:00 am.

A) Worship Service – Special Requirements:

1. To provide a touch-free environment, we will not be providing bulletins or handouts for these services. We will provide them via email prior to the service and will post them on our website www.gbfcnaz.org.
2. The restrooms in the Fellowship Hall side of the campus will remain closed. The restrooms in the main building will be available for use during phase 1.
3. The water fountains will be turned off and unavailable during phase 1.
4. Congregational singing will be absent during phase 1 and begin during phase 4 2, as transmission of the virus is predominately via respiratory droplets. We will have special music and instrumental music.
5. The pews will be emptied of pens, bibles, and hymnals. Please bring your own. If someone needs a Bible, an usher can provide one upon request (see an usher).
6. The offering plates will not be passed. We encourage you to continue to mail in your offering or utilize electronic giving through the website. We will have an offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary after the service.
7. Children's Bulletins and other materials will be emailed to the parents each week. We ask that parents print them out prior to coming to the service and be prepared with your own writing/coloring materials. Packets of activity pages and crayons will be available upon request (and should be taken home at the end of the service).
8. There will be no in-person Adult or Youth Sunday School during the summer.
9. The library will not be open.
10. We ask that you not congregate in the foyer or hallways to talk to people. If you want to do so, please leave the building and have your conversation outside away from entrances and exits of the building.
11. Please avoid shaking hands or hugging.
12. Communion will be observed via individually-distributed packets.

B) Seating Logistics:

1. Seating in the sanctuary will be limited to between 50 and 80.
2. We will be utilizing every other row and spacers of 6 feet between family groups.
3. The entrance to the sanctuary will be through the center doors only.
4. The sanctuary will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the service.

5. Seating in the sanctuary will be on a first come first served basis.
6. Seating will be done from the front of the sanctuary to the back of the sanctuary with an usher designating the location that you and your family will be sitting, and an usher will guide you to your seat.
7. We will not be taking reservations for seats. If you are not in your normal spot, we ask that you praise the Lord that we are together and lovingly follow the guidance of the ushers.
8. When the sanctuary is full the doors will be closed, and the remainder of our church family will be guided to the fellowship hall where we will live-stream the service on the screen.
9. Similar to the sanctuary, seating in the fellowship hall will be completed from the front to the rear with the head usher designating the location for your family to sit. Ushers will guide you to your appointed location.
10. After the service is complete, we will be dismissing the seating area starting with the rear first (sanctuary or fellowship hall).
11. If you want to talk to someone in the sanctuary or fellowship hall you can stay for a short period of time, but please consider the following:
 - Wait until others who want to leave have left the sanctuary or fellowship hall before moving to talk to others.
 - Once you leave the sanctuary and fellowship hall please proceed outside of the building and avoid lingering in the hallways as we want people to be able to comfortably leave the building without passing through crowded areas.

C) Children:

1. Families are encouraged to come, however, during the limited seating phase the following will be the status of our children's programs:
 - Nursery will not be staffed. The room will be open for use when needed. Please notify an usher if you are using or have used the nursery so that it can be cleaned after the service.
 - There will be no children's church including 2s & 3s.
2. We understand that children may be a little fidgety, but please know that we want them in the service if you feel comfortable bringing them. Feel free to bring quiet things to occupy young children.
3. Children's Church videos will continue to be produced throughout the summer and will be available to view each Sunday.

D) Small Groups:

1. Small Groups (Heart to Heart, Man to Man, SWAP etc.) will postpone all official activities until the fall.

E) Weddings and Funerals:

1. Both events can take place during the “Limited Seating Phase”
2. Seating in the sanctuary will be limited to the 50 - 80 range and will follow the pattern of the Sunday Morning Worship Services.
3. The guidelines listed in “A” and “B” under the “Limited Seating Phase” will govern these events.
4. Cleaning will be performed before and after each event. It will be done by the paid cleaning person as arranged under the normal/existing reservation procedures.

Stage 2 – Open Seating Phase (July 19)

1. As of July 19th Grace will be moving to an open seating phase. During this phase, we will remove restrictions concerning seating and spacing for all gatherings.
2. Nursery & the 2-3 year-old classes will available during the worship services. However, Sunday School will not be held for the remainder of the summer. Beyond this time it will be is dependent on availability of childcare workers.
3. Children’s Church will not be held for the remainder of the summer.
4. The library will not be open.
5. The sanctuary will continue to be cleaned and disinfected after each service for the remainder of the summer.
6. Offering plates will not be passed for the remainder of the summer. Offering will continue to be collected via online options or by you placing your gift in the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary after the service.
7. Pens will not be available in the pews so you will need to bring your own pen.
8. Bulletins and sermon guides may be available with a no-touch method of distribution.
9. Bibles will be returned to the pews.
10. Communion will continue to be observed via individually issued packets during the summer.

11. Restrictions for Weddings and Funerals will also be removed, and the coordination of these events will resume under the normal/existing policy.

Weekday Building Visitors

1. **Stage 1 July 5 – July 18** – All people in the building are required to stay at least 6' apart and in addition to wear facemasks. Please refrain from shaking hands or hugging during this time.
2. **Stage 2, July 19** –Social distancing nor facemasks will be required during weekday visits.