NEW SERVICE TIMES

Beginning Sunday, September 13, we will have two services so that we might continue to offer an extravagant welcome to everyone at our church. We would never want to turn anyone away from worship due to the temporary seating limitations of our physical distance safety measures. Since we really mean it when we say ALL ARE WELCOME, two services will allow us to hold true to our beliefs. The first service will be at 9am and the second service will take place at 11am. The children’s message will take place only at the 11am service, so we invite families with young children to attend the later service. Our livestream service via Zoom and Youtube will be available at 11am.

In My Head: thoughts from Pastor Jason

I’ve had an earworm these last days, a song that I just can’t quite get out of my head:

“Yes, we’ll gather at the river
The beautiful, the beautiful river
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.”

What a joy it will be when we are able to gather in person once again!

Our Church Council met on Monday, August 24 and voted to move forward with the next phase of our re-gathering plans. We plan to return to in person worship on Sunday, September 13, 2020. We have missed so much in gathering as a community but also understand the necessity to continue to keep us all safe. With that in mind, our church leadership has developed a new set of protocols for worshipping in person that are included with this letter.

While we are all anxious and excited to return, we do so knowing that CHURCH WILL BE MUCH DIFFERENT IN THE COMING MONTHS. Please keep in mind that our worship leaders will be assisting everyone to learn the new protocols. These faithful volunteers will be doing their best to keep everyone safe and help everyone follow our safety procedures. If you have concerns with the new format, please direct your comments to me or a member of Church Council.

Online worship will continue to be available each week. We also acknowledge that we may need to adjust our operating procedures as we move forward. We ask for your prayers and your patience as we take this next step together.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Pastor Jason
PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME...

IF YOU CAN ANSWER YES TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, WE INVITE YOU TO CONTINUE TO WORSHIP FROM HOME:

- Do you have a body temperature of 100 degrees or higher?
- Have you recently come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
- Have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
- Do you have underlying health conditions that would put you at greater risk of developing complications from COVID-19?
- Are you unwilling or unable to follow any of the new operating protocols?

WHEN YOU ARRIVE...

OPERATING PROTOCOLS

- Only worship leaders who have been pre-assigned for the day will remain in the narthex. All others will be asked to take a seat as soon as you arrive to church. Temperature checks are mandatory for all worship leaders.
- Before leaving home to come to church, please check your temperature; wash your hands with soap and hot water for at least twenty seconds and don your facial covering.
- When arriving at church, please maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from anyone outside your own household.
- **Please do not park at 5/3 bank.** The building is now occupied by a new business. The lot at Centers for Families and Children is still accessible.
- Enter through front doors only – Truax entrance will remain locked. Please do not enter the church office.

DIGITAL CHURCH

We have adapted in these last months to participating in church activities online. From Sunday worship to Board and Committee meetings to Bible study and small groups, we have embraced the virtual word in new ways. We will embrace this avenue of evangelism in the months and years to come as well, recognizing the unique and wonderful possibilities for ministry that exist online. As we return in person, rest assured that our Sunday service will continue to be available online each week at YouTube.com/westparkucc

WHICH SERVICE WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Will I worship early or will I worship later? Will I worship at a different service each week? Will I worship online? It’s up to you!

Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God
Upon entering, a worship leader will write down your name, rather than each person signing in to the attendance pad. Any prayers you might like lifted up in worship will also be recorded at this time.

Only two individuals or one family group will be allowed in the narthex at the same time.

Each person will wear a facial covering that covers their mouth and nose at all times while in the building. If you do not have one, a mask will be provided. Young children may remove their masks while seated.

Please use hand sanitizer (located in the narthex) before moving into the sanctuary.

A basket for offerings and tithes is located at the entrance to the sanctuary. The Deacons will not pass the offering plates.

One-way traffic – in through center aisle, out via side aisles.

Should you need to visit the restroom, please limit to two persons in the restroom at a time. Each restroom has been equipped with no touch soap dispensers.

Every other pew is closed off and the balcony is also closed to general seating. When entering, each person should move into the pew, sitting as far from the center aisle as possible. Families with children should sit next to the center aisle if they wish their children to come forward during our children’s message offered at the 11am service.

During children’s message, children will be invited to come forward and to return to their seats using the center aisle.

There will be no in-person Sunday School classes; all children will receive a worship bulletin with crayons when they arrive.

For the time being, there will be no congregational singing.

Bulletins will be available for pickup when you enter the sanctuary. Please take your bulletin with you when you leave.

After service ends, you will be invited to exit the sanctuary one row at a time. Our worship team will dismiss you.

Bathrooms and pews will be thoroughly sanitized after each service.

Worship will also be available online @ YouTube.com/westparkucc or by dialing in to 1 929 205 6099 (Meeting ID: 503 841 134).