

Redwood Chapel Family,

October 15, 2020

*"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4*

We have good news to share. This past Tuesday, Alameda County issued a press release that allows Places of Worship to have 25% of building capacity or a maximum of 100 people INDOORS for church services (whichever is fewer) starting the week of October 26, 2020.

After discussion with our elders this past Sunday night, Redwood Chapel is planning to resume Sunday Morning Indoor Church services on November 1, 2020. Similar to what we did back on July 12, 2020, we will have one church service at 11am in the sanctuary that will be simulcast in Williams Chapel, Heritage Room, and the Firehouse (only if capacity in the main sanctuary and Williams Chapel is reached). Plan to be here by 10:45am as a courtesy to others in your room.

Registrations will open beginning on Thursday, October 22. Online streaming services will continue each Sunday morning at 11am for those unable to physically attend or who are not yet prepared to worship together due to personal health concerns.

We have three good options for parents with children to attend in person:

(1) Heritage Room: This room is an opportunity for kids from preschool (potty-trained) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in worship by watching the Livestream (up to the point of preaching) and then RC Kids Staff will host RC EPIC Kids for Bible study and discussion. If a parent plans to drop off their child in this room, please register the child separately for this room. Kids will be socially distanced and wearing masks (unless an exception applies). Parents will pick-up kids from this room after the main service ends.

(2) Worship Center Nursery: This is specifically intended for 1 parent and their child(ren) that are not potty-trained or are under 3 years old. No Redwood Chapel staff will be present, so a parent must be present with their own child(ren). Parents can monitor their own children and use the changing stations while watching the livestream service on the TV. Parents should wipe down changing stations after each use, as RC staff will clean changing stations before each service.

(3) Keep your kids with you during the service: Children are welcome to sit with the parents, but we desire to reduce noise distractions in the main sanctuary for effective livestreaming of the service.

Because Sunday morning services will resume in November, our last Sunday evening Gather will be held this coming Sunday night October 18 at 4pm and 6pm. Please register to attend.

**The following is a list of things you can expect when we resume gathering for Indoor Worship Services:**

- 1) Expect elements of the service that have traditionally been part of our gatherings: singing, offering, communion, announcements, preaching, and testimonies.
- 2) We will utilize an online reservation system to spread people among those rooms in compliance with numerical limitations.
  - a. If you have any difficulty with making an online registration, there will be a “Welcome Back” table on the patio in order to assign you to a room with sufficient space for your group.
  - b. Each room will be staffed with a team who are ready to welcome, assist and encourage social distancing in each location. There will be a supply of Bibles, connect cards, communion elements, and bulletins for use during the service.
- 3) The Alameda County Health Order requires masks and they should be worn when arriving on campus unless one of the Order’s exceptions applies to you.
  - a. We will have a limited supply of masks on campus if you forgot to bring yours.
  - b. When it comes to people’s decision as to the use of masks on our campus, we reiterate what we told you in regards to Paul’s words about avoiding disunity within the body of Christ in Romans 14, and specifically verse 13 “Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.”

**When we resume gathering for services on our campus, please know that we will be prepared to receive each of you safely in the following ways:**

- a) Hand sanitizer dispensers are installed at church entrances and throughout the campus;
- b) Offering Boxes in each service location will be used to collect the gifts and offerings as we will no longer be passing the offering plates;
- c) Individually pre-packaged communion elements will be provided for you to pick up before the service and dispose of at the conclusion of the service;
- d) Electrostatic disinfection of all seating, and continued regular cleaning and disinfection of all areas used by those entering our campus;
- e) Staff and volunteers trained on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- f) Increased signage to remind congregation of how to remain healthy while on our campus;
- g) Physical distancing between households for seating and socializing;
- h) Doors to our various gathering locations will be propped open as people are arriving and exiting so as to avoid high-touch surfaces; and
- i) Restrooms are available, but to the extent that you are able, should be used only if necessary.

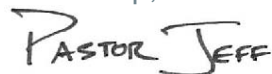
**What is the status of other Indoor meetings on Redwood Chapel’s campus?**

Ministry groups are presently allowed to meet outside on our campus, and have been doing so over the past month. Alameda County plans to issue an updated Shelter-in-Place Order

the week of October 26. While Redwood Chapel hopes to allow its ministry groups to meet indoors on its campus starting in early November, we need to consider the language of this Order before providing further information. Importantly, we want to see Sunday morning in-person indoor services run smoothly according to the health guidelines and we want to hear from each Lifestage leader to understand what their group currently needs. Regardless, all indoor meeting groups will continue with mask wearing (unless an exception applies), physical distancing, observing capacity limitations, and cleaning between room uses. If a group wants to meet on our campus, they will need to request their room location and time with Joan Kady.

We will continue to keep you apprised of significant developments by the e-newsletter, our website and social media pages. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and support of Redwood Chapel's leadership team.

In His Grip,



Jeff Miller  
Lead Pastor