

May 29, 2020

Dear Cornerstone Church:

It was eleven weeks ago that we wrote our first letter during this pandemic, giving the news that we were no longer meeting physically for a time. Since then, we have conducted eleven Sunday livestream services as well as GCs, Entrust, corporate prayer, and other meetings. Through it all, you as a church have been supportive, connected, and humbly patient. Thank you, Cornerstone.

In our Father's sovereignty, this historic pandemic is not over yet. However, in his sovereignty, livestream-only for Sunday is over, at least for a time. We have some good news and some can't-wait-to-see-what-God-is-going-to-do-next news.

The can't-wait-to-see news concerns a structure for Cornerstone to call home. We do not have one yet, aside from the basement. We're continuing to pray, look, and inquire. Please continue praying for this. Our Father knows what we need and loves us (cf. Matt. 6:32).

In the meantime, we get to resume gathering together beginning this Sunday, May 31st, at 10am. We've been excited for this day. To prepare for it, we need to cover a few details.

Here are details of this Sunday's worship gathering, including guidelines that we are putting in place, at least for a time, in order to keep with the mandates of our civil authorities:

Corporate Worship Service Details

- We will meet at the Teton County Fairgrounds on the 1.5 acre lawn. See picture below for details. The address for the fairgrounds is 305 W. Snow King Ave.
- At this point, set up and amenities will be kept to a minimum. As for this venue and format, picture something like a family-friendly outdoor music festival. Bring your own chairs (camping chairs or folding chairs), or a blanket to sit on. Parents of young children may consider bringing something like a pack-and-play or stroller for the kids.
- It's not likely that we will have a large, arena-like tent for the congregation this Sunday. So, you may want to bring something like an umbrella, pop-up-covering, or your trusty straw sombrero. Or you can get all the vitamin D you like.

- We are gradually moving back to a physical gathering, there will not be children's Sunday School.
- Our authorities ask that each household/people living in the same house maintain six feet of distance between one another. As it's likely that we will have observers and people dropping by, let's be sure we are a good witness with that. We'd prefer not to be the featured subjects of an uncharitable article in the Monday newspaper.
- The livestream will not be available this week. We will, however, video record the service and post it on the Cornerstone YouTube page by Sunday evening.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided, though you are encouraged to bring your own.
- Masks will be made available for those who wish to wear one.
- Authorities ask that staff/volunteers wear masks during the service, so we will do that (except for the preacher!). As it concerns masks, it's been well said, "One person regards one mask above another, another regards no mask at all. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind" (Almost Romans 14:5).
- Authorities ask that no food and beverages be served during the service. Please also avoid sharing food or beverages outside of your household during the service.
- Authorities also ask that we avoid passing items out. So, the offering plate will not be passed during the service. You may continue to worship through giving either online or mail (P.O. Box 4943, 83001).
- No bulletins will be printed but will be made available for you to download from our website.
- Communion will be distributed in individual packets and will be handed out by volunteers, according to the state stipulations.
- At the conclusion of the service, congregants will be dismissed by row and encouraged to maintain distancing as they leave the fairgrounds.

Below you will find a map of our gathering location.



Here are additional state guidelines required for religious gatherings at this time:

If you are feeling any of the below symptoms, please do not attend any public gathering.

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever above 100°
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Vomiting/Diarrhea (for children)

If you have had any of these symptoms in the last two weeks, but are not currently experiencing them, we would ask that you do not attend a GC or gathering. Those who are more high-risk are encouraged, but not required, to continue to view the services online. You can view more detailed information from the CDC [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/symptoms-and-signs.html).

Some final words:

- We understand that there are varying opinions as to the regulations during the pandemic. Whatever the case, as those who profess the great name of Jesus Christ, let's be sure to heed these commands from our wonderful God:
 - Philippians 2:3–5 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus
 - 1 Timothy 2:1–3 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior
 - Colossians 4:5–6 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
 - Matthew 22:39 You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
- Let's comply with the protocols outlined in this plan, requested by our civil authorities. This will be different than our normal gathering, but we can love our Lord and others, in addition to being a good witness, by doing so.
- Due to the sensitive nature of the pandemic and our county, we are not planning to aggressively promote services at this time. You may, of course, invite others and bring not-yet believers. But we want to carefully ease back into worshipping publicly.
- The pandemic is not over. Especially with the many tourists visiting the area, another flare-up in cases is possible. With that, it's also possible that our county and state officials could put former restrictions in place, requiring livestream again. In the meantime, let's pray that a flare-up would not happen; for the virus to diminish in damage and spread; for the safety of our town, and the ability to continue worshipping in person. This is certainly a time where James' "if-the-Lord-wills" advice is needed (cf. Jas. 4:15).

- “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” (Col. 3:14). Whatever church looks like in the future, let us continue to love one another. And let’s keep praying for one another, encouraging one another, and trusting in our great God.

We are grateful for you all and count it a privilege to shepherd Cornerstone Church. Don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or needs.

In Christ,

Colby Stevens



Eric Davis



Matt Mumma

