

Count it all joy, brothers and sisters, when you face these challenges because this will produce hopeful endurance. Let this patience complete its work in you so that you won't be lacking in any way.

James 1:2-4

September 21, 2020

Dear Community Church of Douglas,

With grateful anticipation we invite you to return to weekly indoor worship on Sunday October 4th, 2020. In this mailing you will find a step-by-step instruction sheet, answers to frequently asked questions, and an explanation of what to expect.

Let's remember that Sunday worship is not principally about what you and I want. **First**, we gather to offer our hearts, minds, and strength in worship to God. (Matt 27:37) **Second**, when we gather we bring something to share with our church family - our prayer, our song, our resources, our time - to serve one another in love following the example of Jesus (1 Cor 14:26) **Third**, when we come to gathered worship having done our best to love God and our neighbor we will be healed, refreshed, and strengthened in our own spiritual growth.

We have analyzed, with expert consultation from Vanderbloemen and Aspen Group, the best way for our particular church to re-open safely considering our unique building, budget constraints, small ministry team, and limited fall/winter volunteers. We recognize that other churches you have seen online, heard of or even attended recently may have a different approach. Following the leading of the Holy Spirit, church best practices, and public health guidance this is our best plan at this time. As the situation changes we may have to make adjustments. Thank you for your grace and patience recognizing there is not a perfect solution. All of us will be sacrificing our comfort and the preferences we have grown accustomed to in our worship gatherings. There is a reason the book of Hebrews exhorts us to "continually offer God a *sacrifice of praise.*" (Hebrews 13:15-16)

FALL/WINTER WORSHIP TIMES AND OFFERINGS:

SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 - 9:50 Discipleship Hour
101 - Kingdom of God Bible Study
102 - The Kingdom: Genesis to Revelation
9:40 Worship Seating Begins
10:00 -11:15 Worship
Nursery & Full Young Disciples Program

SUNDAY EVENING

5:30 -6:20 Discipleship Hour
101 - Kingdom of God Bible Study
6:10 Worship Seating Begins
6:30 - 7:45 Worship
Nursery Only

Reservations will need to be made each week by 5pm on Friday following the instructions on the sheet included.

For Sunday morning, we request that priority be given to those who are elderly, have mobility issues, and families with Sunday school children. If you do not fit in one of those groups graciously consider attending the Sunday evening service even if it is not your preferred choice

Trusting in God's Grace and Guidance,



Brandon Beebe, Lead Pastor



Bill Winter, Board President

Guide For Returning To The Worship Gathering

ASSESS whether it is safe for you to return to worship in person:

Step 1

- 1) Have you or someone in your household been in contact with someone who has COVID-19? **Stay home.**
- 2) Have you or someone in your household been in contact with someone in quarantine waiting results on a test for COVID-19? **Stay home.**
- 3) Do you have any of these: cough, short of breath, loss of taste/smell, fever above 100°F, chills, diarrhea, sore throat, fatigue, congestion? **Stay Home**
- 4) If you are at high-risk or immuno-compromised we can't assure your safety even with precautions. **Stay Home**

RESERVE a seat by 5pm on Fridays: *(you must reserve a seat every week for worship)*

Step 2

CALL (269) 857-1492 and leave a message with the attendant or

EMAIL - worship@ccofdouglas.org

Include in your reservation:

- **WHICH SERVICE (10:00am Morning or 6:30pm Evening)**
- **WILL YOU ATTEND DISCIPLESHIP HOUR**
- **NAMES OF PERSONS ATTENDING**
- **AGES OF CHILDREN**
- **WHICH SECTION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIT IN (see reverse)**

ARRIVE early. There are check-in procedures.

Step 3

Wear a mask at all times indoors (disposable masks available)

Families with children use the family entrance all others use the Sanctuary Entrance.

There is a fast lane for those with mobility issues.

- 1) Wait to get your temperature checked. Wait on the circles 6 feet apart.
- 2) Get your temperature checked.
- 3) Sanitize your hands using the touch free dispenser
- 4) Go directly to your section (no mingling) a welcome team member will seat you.

Step 4

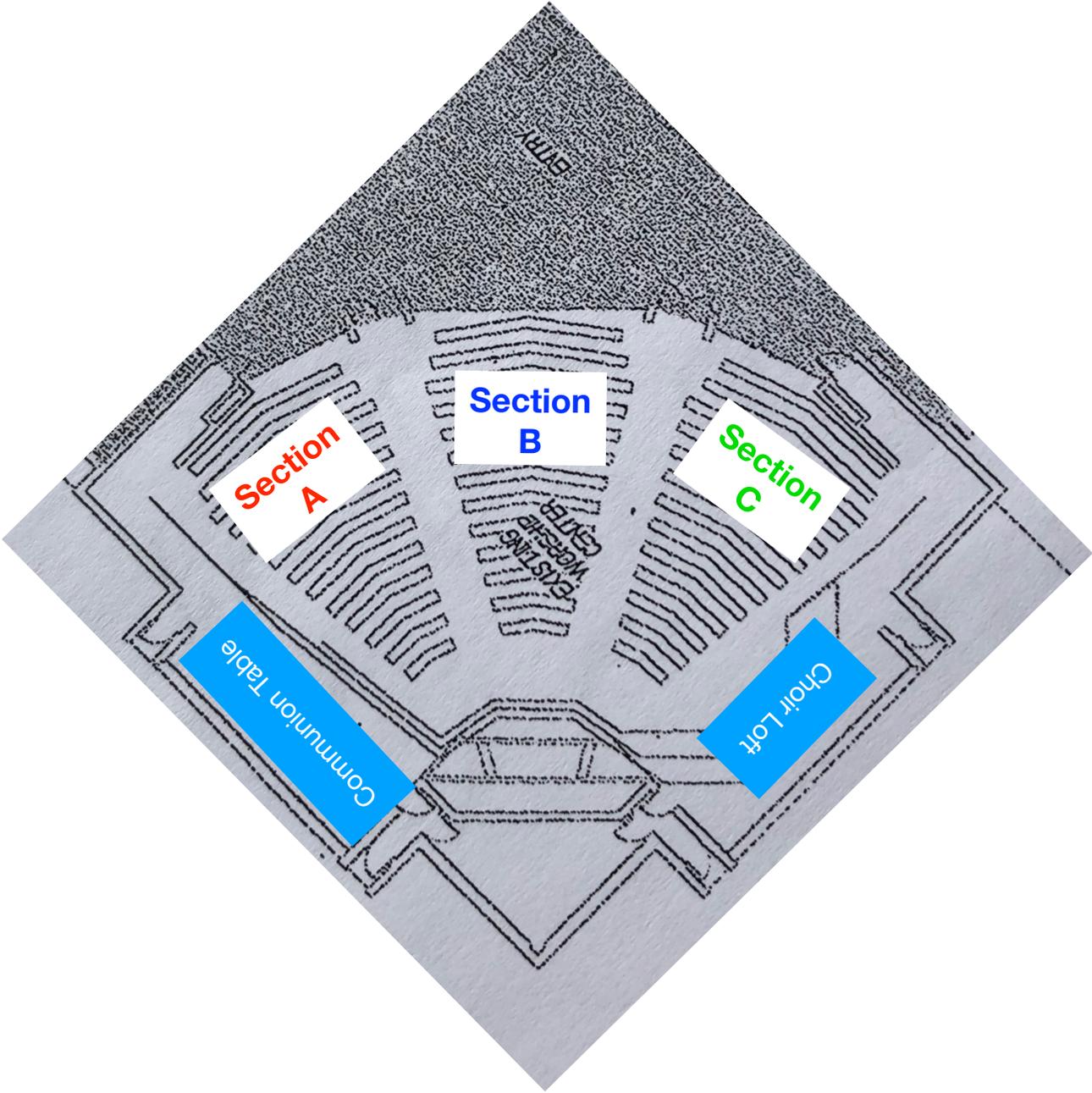
WAIT to be dismissed at the end of the service.

You will be dismissed by sections to avoid overcrowding in the doorways.

Directly exit the building. Do not linger or mingle indoors.



SANCTUARY SEATING



Q: *Why only 2 services instead of the 3 services originally planned?*

A: Unfortunately, we do not have enough resources, staff hours, or volunteers for three separate services across 2 days.

Q: *Why a convergent/blended style service instead of 1 traditional service and 1 contemporary?*

A: Because we can't assure equal access to preferred service styles, we are focusing on becoming "one church family united in Christ-centered worship." Mark and Jean will lead together in a simpler way to help us focus on Jesus rather than musical style.

Q: *Why worship in the sanctuary and not the gym?*

A: Our children's food programs are still currently using the gym to feed a significant number of children we aren't in the classroom - nearly 700 meals a week. Loving our neighbors sometimes requires a little sacrifice.

Q: *What are the health and safety precautions for my children?*

A: We want to sure the safest possible discipleship environment for our children. Families will enter the "FAMILY ENTRANCE" under the blue canopy. Our Family Discipleship Team will be contacting you with specific instructions including a "Well Child" policy.

Q: *Can I still come if I don't wear a mask?*

A: No. However, if you have a diagnosed condition (on oxygen, etc) that doesn't allow you to wear a mask you will be seated outside the sanctuary where you can be mask free.

Q: *Why is there a screen in the sanctuary?*

A: CDC guidelines and our insurance company requires that no common bibles, hymn books, or paper be circulated. The screen is the best way to accommodate healthy worship.

Q: *Is food and beverage allowed?*

A: A covered beverage can be brought from home but not food. No food or beverage will be served in the building.

Q: *Why open at all? Isn't it too dangerous?*

A: There is still significant infection risk at this time even with all the precautions. However, our spiritual health is as important as our physical health. It was becoming apparent that online resources were not helping our church family. If you feel uneasy about returning to worship for any reason please stay home - you can watch online and bible study resources will be sent you if you request them.

Q: *What if I just have a cold, allergies, or other illness?*

A: If you have a cold, fever, other sign of illness for your own comfort and that others please stay home and join us online until you are well.

Q: *Will there be Church@Home (online) resources.*

A: Our tech team will be streaming the Sunday morning service in real-time on Facebook and Youtube. If you would like the bible study materials to do at home, please request them at worship@ccofdouglas.org or by calling the office. There will be family discipleship resources for families remaining at home.