



***"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*** – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Dear SLCC Church Family,

The elders and staff of SLCC have been in numerous meetings and constant prayer as to God's timing for us to resume in-person gatherings. Our aim is to do our best to safely include everyone wherever they are in regards to their comfort level of regathering. We have come up with a tentative plan (depending on government and CDC recommendations moving forward) that will allow us to safely resume meeting together. Please take the time to read the following information.

- Sunday, July 26 – we will reopen our doors for in-person worship at our 9:30am service in the sanctuary during the livestream using appropriate health and safety guidelines (guided by the CDC and our local and state health departments).
- For the time being, we will continue to offer a Drive-in service for those who would still like to worship at the same time as those in the building, but who aren't as comfortable with an in-person service. We will also continue to record our services and post them to the website and Facebook.

We want to remind you that this pandemic is an ever-changing and evolving situation so the plans we make today could change depending on new information and circumstances. We also have a comprehensive list of health and safety guidelines that we will be adhering to as a congregation (guided by the CDC and our local and state health departments). These guidelines will certainly change and evolve as time goes on. For now, this is what you can expect for our in-person gatherings:

### **What we are asking YOU to do in regards to health and safety protocols:**

#### **When to stay home:**

- We encourage you to stay home if you are not comfortable with in-person gatherings for whatever reason. We especially want to encourage you to stay home if you fall into the "at risk" category (over 65 years of age or have underlying medical issues—discuss with your doctor). We realize that



attending or not attending is a personal decision and we will respect each other as we each make our own individual choice.

- We ask that you stay home if you have the following symptoms: cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches, loss of sense of smell or taste, flu-like symptoms.
- We ask that you self-quarantine for 14-days if you have traveled to a high risk area as defined by CDC or if you have been exposed to COVID-19. Alternatively, you could get tested for COVID-19. If your test is negative, there would be no need to self-quarantine.

### **Social distancing while at SLCC gatherings:**

- We will practice social distancing between people of different households by a minimum of six feet in addition to requiring masks.
- We will arrange seating in the sanctuary appropriately to make social distancing easy and straightforward.
- We will refrain from physical contact (i.e. hugging, shaking hands, etc).
- When you arrive please park in the Kenton Street parking lot and remain in your car until you are asked by a safety team member to enter the building.
- You will be greeted at the door and your temperature will be taken (touchless thermometer) before you enter the building, we don't expect anyone to come with a temperature (over 100.4), but if this happens you will be asked to return when your temperature returns to normal (and you should check with your doctor to determine if you need further treatment for an infection).
- You will be directed up the stairs or the elevator to the upper level where you will again be greeted and escorted to the next available seat (unfortunately you will not be able to choose your preferred seat)
- You must keep your face mask on at all times and remain in your seat, distanced from everyone.
- Hopefully you will not need to use a restroom during the service, but if this becomes necessary, please see the greeter at the door you entered and they will direct you to the correct restroom (all but two restrooms will be closed).
- When the service is over, everyone is to remain seated until the greeter comes to the row where you are seated and dismisses your row—this may take a few moments to keep people spaced out properly.
- Please keep your mask on and distance from others until you are in your car.



## **Practice healthy habits**

- We encourage you to practice good hygiene (wash your hands for 20-seconds, use hand sanitizer frequently, cough or sneeze into your elbow, avoid touching your face: eyes, nose, and mouth).
- We will require you to wear a mask. All staff and volunteers will be wearing masks.

## **Singing**

- We encourage you to simply listen to the music and words and allow them to minister to your heart. An alternative to singing is to simply speak the words the praise team is singing—praising God is not just singing!

## **What SLCC is doing to ensure proper health and safety practices:**

### **Resources provided:**

- Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the facility, please use it as you enter and leave.
- Masks will be provided for people who do not have one, gloves are also available
- SLCC will provide touch-less thermometer readings for those entering the building.
- The facility and restrooms will be sanitized each week between services.

### **Practices being followed:**

- There will be NO passing of offering plates, communion or bulletins. No shared use of Bibles or devices being used for a Bible (i.e. Bible app on phone or tablet). Pews and chairs will be stripped of all accessories. Offering can be dropped in locations that will be provided prior to or after the service.
- No coffee or other refreshments will be available.
- The Lord's Supper will be provided by our volunteers as you enter the facility by using proper health and safety guidelines. We ask that you kindly take with you the container that the communion will be provided in.
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- There will be a clear protocol for restroom use—only one person at a time is allowed into the one men’s and one’s women’s restroom, please wash your hands thoroughly. We encourage you to use the restroom at home before and after coming to worship.
- SLCC will keep a log of those in attendance.

### **Staff and volunteers**

- All staff and volunteers have agreed to follow SLCC health and safety guidelines.
- There will be a team of trained greeters and ushers to help people navigate safely around the building and grounds.

### **Facility preparations**

The facility will be cleaned prior to each worship service based on recommendations by our insurance company, Church Mutual and the CDC.

- Doors will be propped open where possible to increase clean air circulation and so people are not touching doorknobs.

Signs will be posted around the building regarding health and safety guidelines.

The number of people gathered will be an ongoing concern that we will have to evaluate and mitigate as we move forward.

### **Response Plan**

SLCC has formed a response plan for if and when someone is exposed or has contracted COVID-19 through a SLCC gathering. The response plan will be initiated to prevent further spreading of the virus. You will be notified if you are affected.

### **Children’s Ministry**

At this point in time we are still considering how best to safely provide Sunday nursery care and children’s Sunday School. Until then, children must remain with, and be supervised by parents at all times.



Finally, we realize that there are differences of opinion regarding how best to move forward as a society, even among faithful followers of Christ. Perhaps you will disagree with a decision or procedure we are making as a church. That is to be expected and it is okay to disagree, but it is not okay to be rude, inconsiderate or divisive. We want to remind you that we are all trying to do our best in this unprecedented time. When it comes to reopening the church doors there is a lot to consider. Thank you for your grace!

We all see the world a little differently because we all come from different life experiences and situations. We are also aware that we all have different comfort levels in interacting with others during this pandemic. In the midst of these realities, we want to encourage us all to be patient and kind to one another - *"Love is patient, love is kind . . ."* Our Lord commands us to love one another for that is how we will show the world the truth of God's love, *"By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."* (John 13:35).

We know this is a lot of information to process. If you are like us, you probably have mixed emotions of feeling excited to see our church family begin to slowly gather again and also somewhat saddened that we have all these health and safety guidelines to consider. Church is going to be different for awhile. Let us embrace the change and make the best of it! Brothers and sisters, may we all be filled with the Holy Spirit and see its fruit in our individual lives and our corporate life together as South Louisville Christian Church.

Grace and Peace,

Your SLCC Leadership

*1 Corinthians 12:20 states, "As it is, there are many parts, but one body."* Let us come together as *one body*, in unity and love.