

Concord United Reopening Plan

Phase One

Concord United is committed to the health and safety of members and visitors and will follow established guidelines from the CDC, State of Tennessee, and the Knox County Health Department. All governmental guidelines and recommendations will be evaluated and interpreted for our context. Ultimately, reopening protocols and activities will be addressed and executed in light of the most recent mandates and recommendations by the Bishop and Cabinet of the Holston Annual Conference. Until such time that Holston Conference churches are allowed to open to non-staff for worship and/or small group gatherings Concord United will continue with online worship and small group activities, daily email and online connections, and congregational outreach via phone calls.

The following is the latest guidance from the State of Tennessee regarding the opening of churches (May 1, 2020):

- Those attending need to wear masks.
- Physical distance by staying 6 feet away from others.
- No hugging or shaking hands.
- Hard surfaces are to be cleaned.
- Food and drink are not to be served.
- Groups other than worship are not to meet. This includes preschool, children, youth, Sunday school class, etc.

Additionally, it is understood that people will make their own decisions based on what they feel comfortable with. Those who are sick should stay home. Vulnerable or high risk populations also are encouraged to stay home.

It is anticipated that reopening will occur in phases with phase one being limited to worship services only. All on-campus small group classes and gatherings for persons of all ages will continue to be cancelled.

Upon receiving the go-ahead for opening our campus to members and visitors, Concord United will activate the following protocols.

Ahead of Reopening

- The campus will receive a thorough cleaning with approved sanitation products and procedures.
- Members and active visitors will receive information via website, email, and social media, both written and by video, outlining all protocols, procedures, and personal responsibility.

- All staff and volunteers will be briefed as to policies, protocols, and procedures and encouraged to strictly adhere to same to promote good health and model responsible behavior.

Phase One Reopening for Sunday Worship

- There will be two entrances:
 - East One (covered entrance) which will be the only handicap accessible entrance during Phase One.
 - West Narthex, not handicap accessible
- There will be three exits: East One, West Narthex, Farr Drive
 - Worshipers will be released by row after each service to avoid bunching
 - Worshipers will be discouraged from gathering in East Corridor and Narthex before and after services.
- There will be one service per worship area per day to allow for thorough sanitation of seating areas. The schedule will begin as follows:
 - Traditional Worship in Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.
 - Contemporary Worship in Worship Center at 11:15 a.m.
 - Additional worship times/spaces will be evaluated each week and added as necessary. This can include an outside service on the lawn.
- No nursery will be provided.
- Seating will be limited to no more than 50% capacity following guidelines for 6 feet in all directions between chairs for each person or family group. This may reduce seating capacity significantly.
- Individuals and families will be able to reserve seating via an online registration system. Worshipers will receive a link to make a reservation for worship. The reservation will be honored until five minutes after worship start time, then the seats will be released for walk-ins.
- Seats in the Worship Center will be labeled for the specific families or individuals per their reservation. Extra seats will be available for walk-ins. Worshipers will be escorted to their seats by a greeter and dismissed by rows/zones.
- Pews in the Sanctuary will be marked for physically distanced seating utilizing every other row. Labels will also be used to designate reserved seats. Space will be provided for walk-ins.
- A video overflow room will be available in the Gym.
- Members and visitors over the age of three will be asked to wear a face covering at all times upon entry into the building. Extra face coverings will be available at the door. This is a state regulation and there can be no exceptions.
- All staff and volunteers will wear faces coverings at all times. Preachers and singers may remove coverings to speak or sing, respecting double or 12-foot physical distance.
- The Contemporary Worship Team will practice physical distancing while on the platform.
- An ensemble will be used for Traditional Worship and physical distancing will be observed.

- Sanitizing stations will be accessible at all entrances and exits. Restrooms will be cleaned constantly when worshipers are in the building.
- No communal items such as hymnals, registration books, bulletins, brochures, etc. will be available. Offerings may be made online or in depositories accessible at the exits.
- No food or beverages will be served.
- Holy Communion will be served to worshipers where they are sitting by masked and gloved ushers who will provide a personal plastic cup of juice and small piece of bread. Alternatively, provide pre-packaged communion elements as worshipers enter.