

# The Messenger

July 10, 2020



## Big News!



After prayer, careful thought, and lots of conversation between your pastors and church leaders, we are pleased to announce that **First Christian Church Garland will resume meeting in person for worship on Sunday, July 26th.**

As we are all aware, COVID-19 is still spreading in our community. Because of this, we know that many of you will not feel ready yet to join us in person. We want you to know that you have the

full support of your church family to continue staying home as long as you need. Absolutely no one should feel obligated to attend in person. Please continue to prioritize staying healthy!

### Live-Streaming Video of Sunday Morning Worship Service Will Continue

If you need help in connecting to the weekly service please email Leslee Madrid at [officeadmin@fccgarland.org](mailto:officeadmin@fccgarland.org) or call her at 972-272-5423 and she will help you get connected.

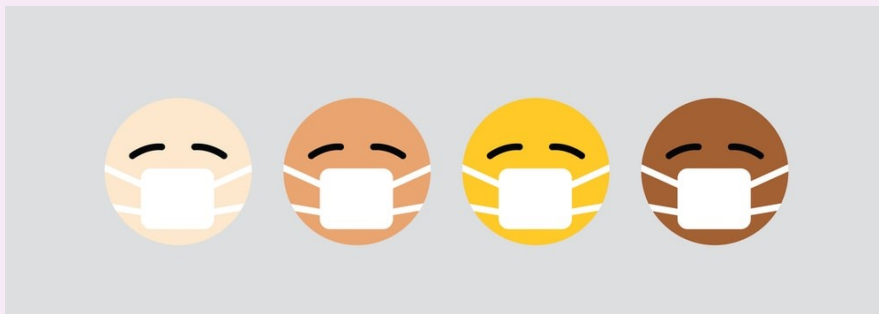
The online service will be the same service we celebrate in the sanctuary.



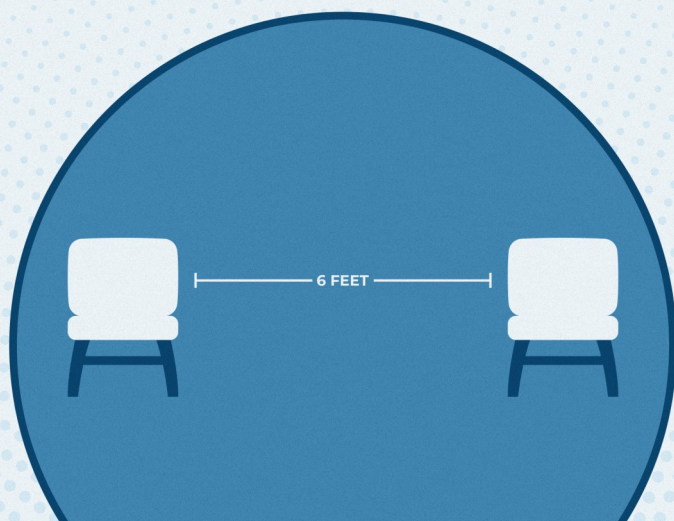
**WE WILL CONTINUE  
LIVE STREAMING**

## You will notice some changes if you come on July 26th

- Come for worship at **10:00 am** during the summer months.
- Only the front doors leading into the Narthex and then into the sanctuary will be unlocked. There are three additional Exit doors available from the Sanctuary in case of an emergency.
- Masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer will be available (people are also welcomed to bring their own), and we will ask people to take every possible precaution to prevent sharing germs.
- Portions of our pews will be without cushions to designate safely-distanced seating. There will be people offering help in the Narthex. We ask that you enter the building, receive your Communion elements, and head directly to where you will sit in the sanctuary. Please stay in your seat and have any conversation from your seat while encouraging others to stay in their seat. This will maintain social distancing without having to think too much about it.
- The service itself will be a bit different. We will follow the same format we have been using for the online worship services with just a few changes. We will have scripture, prayer, and a sermon, with some congregational singing (while wearing our masks). We will take communion together, but we will receive it from sealed, individual servings. An offering plate will be available at the entrance into the sanctuary.



WE'LL BE SET UP FOR  
**SOCIAL DISTANCING!**



- The worship services will continue to be posted to our website, so anyone who isn't able or ready to gather with us in person can still participate in the full service online.
- A combined Sunday School class study led by John and Judy Grasham will be offered directly after church worship service in the sanctuary and will be videoed as well.
- Nursery Care will be provided with guidelines (see page six for details).
- We look forward to seeing you. Whether you are planning to join us now or you need to wait a bit longer, please be in prayer for this service—and all the work of our church—that God may be glorified, and our people may be strengthened in faith.

## What to Know Before You Return to the Church Building

- It will be important to understand some who return may be very nervous about returning. In order to be respectful of their feelings, we ask that those returning to the building assume that everyone around you is concerned and that you respect their concern by properly socially distancing, wearing your mask, and allowing temperature checks at the entry.
- If you are ill or have been ill, please do not attend in-person worship; instead please join online.
- If you have had any contact with known COVID-19 confirmed cases or if you have flu-like symptoms or fever, please stay home and self-quarantine.
- Before leaving home, please perform a temperature check. If you do not have a thermometer at home, the church will have an infrared scanner available.

### What will be available in the Narthex



You are asked to wear a **facemask** for the protection of others. If you forget your facemask, the church will have a facemask for you to wear. Remember to take the facemask home to dispose of it or wash/sanitize it for another use.

**Hand sanitizer** will be available at the entry to the building. You are asked to please use it prior to entering the sanctuary.

Hand washing is critical to controlling the spread of the virus. **Disinfectant wipes** will be available in the restrooms and you are asked to wipe down surfaces that you have touched.

**Kleenex tissues** will be available, however please take used tissues with you when you leave.

We ask that you not use the water fountains.

**Bottled water** will be available in the Narthex.



- Please do not shake hands or give hugs.
- Please sit at least six feet apart from each other (front, back and to the sides), unless you live in the same household. Yes, you may have to give up your old spot (for a while)!





## What? No Donuts and Coffee?

We will not be providing donuts or coffee for a while.  
Please do not bring food or drink to share.

## Cleaning

The church will be cleaned before and after church services. As you can tell, we are taking precautions so we can worship together. We are disinfecting the sanctuary and other areas thoroughly before you arrive.

Entry to the church will only be available through the front doors facing Glenbrook.

Restrooms will be limited to the restrooms in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall and the handicap restroom. The rest of the building (except the nursery wing) will be closed.



## How can I give to the Church?

**Click here to  
give online!**

You are asked to place your offering into an offering plate as you enter the sanctuary. We will not be passing an offering plate during the service. We encourage all who can to use direct deposit or regular mail to our CPA for your offering:

Clopton & Company ATTN: Stacey Garretson 610 Main Street Garland, TX 75040

## How will Communion be handled?

Communion is open to all who are followers of Jesus Christ. The practice of Holy Communion is a central element of worship within the Disciples tradition and unifies all of us when we partake of the bread and cup. In order for us to share the same bread and cup elements we will be distributing pre-packaged communion to those we will be at home as well as to those who will attend worship services in person. If attending from home...

You are asked to come by the church on **Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm** to pick up a six-week supply of communion elements for you to have at your home. If you are unable to come to the church, arrangements will be made for the elements to be delivered to you or mailed to your home. We ask that you contact Cyndy Smith (972-495-0031 or [dray.cyndy@verizon.net](mailto:dray.cyndy@verizon.net)) to make arrangements for delivery or mailing of the elements. **Please respond by July 17<sup>th</sup>** so that we have time to make the appropriate arrangements for you.

If attending in person...You are asked to pick up a self-contained communion cup and bread from a table in the Narthex. You are to hold the communion cup and bread so that we may all take communion together. We will not be passing communion plates. Please take used communion cups with you when you leave.

- **Please bring your own Bible with you, as the Bibles and Hymnals normally in the church pews have been temporarily removed.**
- **Paper bulletins will not be provided. Please print the bulletin at home if you need information contained in the bulletin.**



### **Blessed be the Lord, there will be music! ...**

however the choir will not be performing until it is considered safe to do so. Congregational singing will be a part of the service; however we will have our facemasks on so as not to endanger others. Performers and speakers in the service will be over twelve feet from others. You are encouraged to “hum” or tap your foot when possible.

### **Be mindful of others when exiting**

When leaving the service (or after Sunday School), please maintain social distancing and remember although you may be comfortable with less than 6 feet of distance, those around you may not. Please “catch up” with others outside in the open air.

### **Sunday School & Childcare**

- Sunday School will be provided in a group format following the Church service in the sanctuary and will be live-streamed like the worship service.
- Childcare will be provided in the nursery wing.
- For more information, see page 6



## Nursery Guidelines

On arrival, staff members will check and record their temperature, wash their hands, wear a mask and gloves, and wear a smock provided by the church over their personal clothing.

Drop off and pick up will be at the entry to the nursery wing from the sanctuary. This area would include hand sanitizer, gloves, book for recording attendance with date, time, child's name, adult's name, temperature, visible symptoms such as cough, sneeze, rash, etc. The parent would take their child's temperature.

Only one adult should bring a child to the drop off area.

Children will clean their hands with sanitizer before entering the nursery.

Staff will minimize physical contact with children.

No food or drinks will be served in the nursery.

Books and toys that cannot be cleaned will be removed from the nursery.

After children are picked up, staff members will clean and sanitize the nursery area including door knobs, light switches, diaper changing area, toys, and floors. We will maintain a checklist of what has been cleaned and when.



## Small Groups

### Youth Groups

There will be no formal youth group activities at the church building until it is considered safe.

### Choir / Bell Choir (until further notice)

There will be no choir / bell choir practice or performances until it is considered safe to do so.

### Other Group Activities (until further notice)

There will be no other group gatherings at the church building until it is considered safe to do so. The Fellowship Hall, kitchen, Sunday School Classrooms are closed at this time.

## Questions?



We know this is a lot of information to take in and you may have questions and/or concerns. Eva McKannan at 972-414-1737 or 214-926-1393 will be available to take your calls or you may reach Eva via email at [patevamck@verizon.net](mailto:patevamck@verizon.net).

# WHEN IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO RETURN TO CHURCH?

When determining whether to attend an in-person worship service, we understand it is a personal decision that each of us must make based on our comfort level. We understand that while everyone may not have the same level of comfort in returning to the building, some are comfortable and ready. Therefore, we will continue offering online services while we add in-person services.

Steve Sutton has provided the following guidance which we believe may be helpful to you in making your decision.

It is suggested to evaluate your health-status by:

- Communicating with your Primary Care Physician’s office regarding your medical history and risk factors for high-risk illness associated with contracting COVID-19.
- Is it safe for you to risk herding and exposure to COVID-19 in public specific with your medical history?
- Do you have any of the following known high-risks for hospitalization associated with COVID-19?



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| ◇ Coronary Artery Disease  | ◇ Immune Deficiency (HIV/AIDS, Auto-Immune Disease(s), others, etc.) |
| ◇ Heart Disease  | ◇ History of Deep Vein Thrombosis                                    |
| ◇ Blood Clotting / Embolism History                                    | ◇ Cancer and Risk for Hypercoagulable (Blood Clotting) Disorder      |
| ◇ Stroke History   | ◇ Pregnancy  |
| ◇ Congestive Heart Failure   | ◇ Obesity  |
| ◇ Cardiac Arrhythmias  | ◇ African American   |
| ◇ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease                                | ◇ Sickle Cell Disease  |
| ◇ Respiratory history, Reactive Airway Disease / Inflammatory Diseases | ◇ Immobilization   |
| ◇ Diabetic   | ◇ Prolonged Travel   |
| ◇ Advanced Age   |  |

High-risk individuals based on age or predisposed health conditions may decide to not to attend the in-person service and wait a little longer before coming to the church. We are dedicated to making sure all members have access to a weekly service whether in person or online. Please reach out to Leslee Madrid ([officeadmin@fccgarland.org](mailto:officeadmin@fccgarland.org)) if you need assistance connecting with the church.