



GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

No Perfect People Allowed

Senior Pastor

Jon Brecke

Youth Pastor

Dave Walls

Children's Minister

Melissa Kacer

Office Staff

Pamela Eibert
Rebecca Aarup

Church Maintenance

Gonzalo Palmas
Chris Heiselman

Worship Ministries

Amy Gerak
Teresa Calvert

Dear Grace Fellowship Family,

These have been trying times and I wanted to write to you our plan to reopen the church and gathering together. The staff has met and the Board of Elders have met regarding how we as church will proceed. The details of the plan will be communicated in a second letter that will be attached along with this letter. First, though, I wanted to take some time to give you our initial thoughts.

We love all you of you very much and we look forward to seeing you. We realize and understand that the COVID-19 sickness that results from the transmission of the Coronavirus is real. The virus can cause people to become very ill, especially our vulnerable population. At the same time there are many who will be impacted very little by the virus, resulting in, as you well know, a lot of deeply held opinions. We have heard and respect the opinions and actions of the very cautious and the more confident in regard to this virus. Both opinions are precious and both have merit.

Grace Fellowship has endured a lot in its history. Jesus has walked with us, and seen us through those difficulties... and He will walk with us again. I have always been so humbled to be a part of this congregation of believers, and I know, even now at this time, we will humble ourselves before the Lord, seek His wisdom and display the Fruits of the Spirit towards one another. Please continue to bow before the Lord and seek Him through his Word, the Bible, as we move forward.

Personally, I ask Him to change my heart of any areas where I am leaning on my own understanding and not His understanding and then to help me discern what He desires. I call on you as a body of believers to continue to call on His name on your behalf, the Elder's behalf, Grace Fellowship Church's behalf, and the whole body of Christ around the world making these difficult decisions. Let's pray that in these decisions Jesus would be renown.

The second letter that follows will detail the when and the how of our regathering together as a church.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

Grace and Peace,

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"May the GRACE of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the love of the FELLOWSHIP of the Holy Spirit be with you all" 2 Corinthians 13:14



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Please read this document in its entirety but also read the previous letter to give context to our decisions.

Governor Ducey's stay at home order expires on 5/15, yet we remain in Phase 1 of Whitehouse.gov procedures for States.

- In our latest Elder meetings (in person and by phone) we approved to regather as a church on **Sunday, May 31th with a 9:00 AM, 10:35 AM, 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM family** worship service (all services will be the same format... message... etc). We believe with the size of our congregation this will provide the continued ability to social distance. If you are able to attend the evening services, we would appreciate it since the morning services will be more populated. The Elder Board also approved for Adult Sunday School to meet during either of the morning services, and the option for weekly ministries to resume if they are able to meet the social distancing standard. Children's Sunday School and nursery will not resume until further notice, but we hope to open as soon as possible. We will also **livestream the 9:00 and 10:35 service** for those who choose to stay home
 - We will sanitize door handles and highly touched areas before the 9:00 service and before the 4:00 service.
 - Seating will be different allowing for personal freedom and decisions regarding families and social distancing. We ask there to be three chairs between each family unit.
 - Offerings will be collected through SecureGive, PayPal, or dropped off in the "churchy-bank" in the back of the auditorium. It can also be sent in or dropped off during the week.
 - The lobby area will act as a hallway while social distancing is recommended. This will help us prevent close gatherings.
 - Multiple exits can be utilized to help in social distancing.
 - If a service is at capacity for social distancing it will be deemed full and those coming after will need to attend one of the other services.
 - If you are at-risk regarding this virus, please join us online for the 9:00 or 10:35 service.
- Guidelines in reopening.
 - If you do not feel well, or anyone in your home does not feel well, please stay home- it's okay
 - If you are not comfortable returning- it's okay to stay home (we will be livestreaming the morning services... see above). There is no guilt, no pressure, no judgment. It is a decision between you, the Lord and your family.
 - Allow everyone personal space, and personal opinions. It's okay to agree to disagree.
 - Greet each other in ways that will allow for individual convictions to social distance.
 - Wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.
 - Be kind, patient, loving, and forgiving.
 - Walk with Jesus and trust Him.
- We will not be monitoring or "policing" social distancing. We only ask you respect everyone's personal convictions and understand this is a contagious virus.
- These procedures are new to all of us. This is our first time navigating a group of people through a pandemic such as this. Please be patient with us, the elders, the pastors, office staff, ministry leaders, and each other as we continue to traverse during this time.

With Love and our Very Best,

The Elder Team

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