

GRACECHURCH

A CHRISTIAN REFORMED CONGREGATION 

Dear Grace Family,

We are so excited to announce that we are reopening our doors to in-person worship! After more than a year apart, it is time to begin to share lives again. When I (Pastor Perrin) think about the Church, the passage of scripture that often comes to my mind is Romans 12: 5, **“in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”**

The last year has robbed us of many things. One of the most important things that have been taken from us is each other. Over the last 13 months, we have been living our lives in parallel. We’ve missed out on sharing all the good and bad that has happened to us. We’ve borne many of these things alone. The result has been the halving of our joy and the doubling of our grief. We’re glad that some of that can begin to be remedied.

Though we are opening this week, we are still months from anything that will approach what was “normal.” We will still distance and wear masks (see the attached Guidelines). It will take time before we can add more than Sunday morning worship to our church calendar. Sunday School, Youth Group, New Members Classes, and the like are still weeks away. We’ll get there one step at a time.

We also recognize that some of you don't feel quite ready to come back yet. That's okay. We're confident in your ability to make the best choices for you and your family. Come back when you're ready, but do come back! We will continue to Livestream for a while, but eventually, we will move away from streaming live services and instead record the service to post online later.

After more than a year apart, we understand that re-entangling your lives with others (even others at the church) might be scary. The last year has been traumatic. Take it slow. As a church, we'll do our best to offer opportunities for us to get reacquainted and enfold with joy those new to our great church.

As with the last year, the weeks ahead are uncertain. We don't know what will happen with COVID variants or vaccine implementation. We'll do our best to communicate changes – both good and bad – as they arrive. For now, our doors are open, and you're invited to return.

On behalf of The Council, ever yours in Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Perrin". The word "Pastor" is written in a larger, more prominent font than "Perrin".

Pastor Perrin

GRACE COVID PLANS

Effective: April 25, 2021

1. Grace will offer a variety of worship opportunities in the coming months until it is safe to reopen fully. While we have no plans to end online services, we are beginning in-person indoor services on **April 25** under the guidelines below. We trust you to make the appropriate decision about in-person attendance for you and your family.
2. If you are vaccinated, you are welcomed—and encouraged!—to attend in person.
3. If you are not vaccinated, you are welcomed—and encouraged!—to attend in person as long as you are not showing any symptoms **and** as long as you have not been exposed to someone with COVID in the previous two weeks.
4. In addition to online services, we will provide opportunities to worship outdoors (weather permitting).
5. For indoor services, please use the following guidelines:
 - a. The church will open to worshippers 15 minutes before the service begins (9:15). All worshippers will have their temperature taken by an usher, given some hand sanitizer, and provided a designated seating area.
 - b. Family groups are asked to sit at least 6 feet (3 chairs) from other families.
 - c. Upon completion of the service, worshippers will be ushered out of the sanctuary. You are invited to join us for fellowship outside.
6. General safety guidelines are still in place.
 - a. Wear a mask (6 y/o and up)
 - b. Stay 6 feet apart.
 - c. Water fountains are temporarily off-limits.
 - d. Stay home if you have symptoms or fear exposure.
 - e. Fellowship time will take place outside (weather permitting)