



# **REDWOOD**

BAPTIST CHURCH

**Redwood's Return To Church  
Plans and Policies**

# A Word From Pastor

For the past few months, while we have been concerned for religious liberty, we have nevertheless followed the guidance of our government for the safety of others and cancelled all church services in order to practice social distancing during the COVID-19 breakout.

Now, as our President is urging cautious return to worship, we are preparing adequately and safely for the slow return to “in-person” gatherings. We have sought legal and medical counsel, as well as consultation with our elected officials in making this plan. Mostly, we are sensitive to the leading of the Lord in the process.

The following pages will outline our phase 1 plan to reopen “in-person” worship services. We all desire safety as instructed by government leaders (Romans 13), and we desire to obey the command of Scripture to assemble and worship (Hebrews 10:25).

We believe church is essential! Let’s work together to make this happen for the glory of God and with a right testimony to those who have not yet trusted Christ as Savior.

**Ryan Johnson**  
Lead Pastor

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# SECTION ONE

## Regarding Senior Citizens/Those with Underlying Health Conditions/ Primary Caregivers for People with Underlying Conditions

Because of the dangers related to COVID-19, we are asking all members age 65 and older and members of all ages who have underlying health conditions such as breathing conditions, cancer treatments, suppressed immune systems, etc, to please strongly consider staying home and continuing to worship via Redwood Online during this Phase I of our return.

### **Who Is at Risk?**

**Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:**

- People 65 years and older

**People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:**

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

**If we become aware that someone who has been in a service becomes ill, we will follow these procedures:**

We will ask the person to stay home and seek medical care if needed. Persons should stay at home for at least seven days after symptoms started AND three days after symptoms are improved and fever resolves without the use of fever-reducing medications.

We will contact local health officials.

If public health officials determine we need to, we will assist with determining who needs to be contacted for contact tracing.

Any areas we determine the confirmed COVID-19 person visited will be sanitized.

# SECTION TWO

## Social Distancing



Signs will be posted around our church campus and shall be observed by members and guests on return to campus.

No one should plan to attend services who is known to have had any contact with known COVID-19 confirmed case within the last 14 days.

Per CDC guidelines as well as our church insurance company, attendees are asked to wear a mask until further notice and to maintain six feet of distance when speaking to one another. Masks have been purchased by Redwood Baptist Church and are available for those who have forgotten to bring one. No one will be permitted into the auditorium without a mask. Adults and children age 5 and older will need masks.

A plexiglass barrier has been installed in front of the podium to protect the audience. The speakers that are behind the plexiglass will not be required to wear a mask.

**To simplify this process, the following practices shall be observed:**

**DO**

- ✓ Wear a mask (ages 5 and up)
- ✓ Wash your hands before and after services
- ✓ Stay six feet from others
- ✓ Cover your coughs or sneezes
- ✓ Visit hand sanitizer stations frequently
- ✓ Be willing to have your (non-contact) temperature taken

**DON'T**

- ✗ Shake hands
- ✗ Hug others
- ✗ Come to church if you are sick
- ✗ Touch your face, nose, and mouth
- ✗ Leave trash in the Auditorium

- We will have the seats in a staggered pattern to ensure social distancing throughout the auditorium, as well in different number of seat groupings to accommodate different size families. Distancing will be kept in all directions—front, back, left, and right.
- At the end of the service, we will ask attenders to be dismissed in a controlled orderly manner maintaining social distancing.
- Offering plates will not be passed during the services. Secure receptacles will be available in the auditorium for you to drop your offering in, or you are encouraged to use online giving.
- Attenders are encouraged to promptly return home and refrain from fellowshiping at the end of the service.
- The main auditorium will be cleared at the end of each service and will remain closed until thirty minutes prior to the beginning of the next service; with the exception of weekly recordings.
- We will not be distributing a printed service bulletin.
- No coffee or food will be shared on campus.
- Playgrounds on the property will be closed.
- The main auditorium restroom will be available for use if necessary, in phase 1 of reopening. We strongly urge you to use the restroom right before you come to church. Our services will be cut in length due to children being in the service.

**Greeters and Hospitality Teams**

Greeters will be required to wear face masks and gloves. They will adhere to social distancing of six feet and will abstain from hand shaking.

There will be no food or drink refreshments offered until further notice.

We will have large sandwich board signage placed outside in both parking lots. Signage will also be placed throughout the property. We will have signage posted outside all entrances to the main auditorium explicitly detailing requirements for service attenders.

### **The Lord's Table**

We will wait to observe the Lord's Table until we have a better sense of health needs. We will likely pre-distribute elements to each chair.

### **Children's Ministry / Nursery**

We will not be having a children's class or nursery in this first phase.

# SECTION THREE

## The Sanitization of Our Facilities

### **Entry Doors/Lobbies**

- Handles to all entry/exit doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Handles to all restroom and closet doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Counters, tables, staircase rails, and all lobby furniture is being sanitized before and after each service.
- Sanitizer stations are cleaned, checked for functionality, and refilled before and after each service.
- Light switches are sanitized before and after every service.
- Facial tissue will be available in the lobby and restrooms.

### **Restrooms**

- Every worker, staff member, and/or volunteer performing cleaning tasks will be required to wear a mask and gloves while working at all times. New gloves will be put on after completing each restroom.
- Toilets, urinals, and sinks will be sanitized before and after every service.
- Counters and surfaces will be sanitized before and after every service.

### **Auditorium**

- Handles to all entry/exit doors are being sanitized before and after each service.
- Chairs and tables used by the ushers are being sanitized before and after each service.
- After each service, the chairs will be sanitized.
- After each service, we will remove all trash and left-over personal items from the auditorium, so please do not forget anything.

### **Nurseries and Children's Classrooms**

We are currently not planning on having the nursery or children's classrooms open for use.

# SECTION FOUR

## Schedule of Our Services & Future Plans

We anticipate rolling out our services in incremental steps as guidance is received. But a Sunday 11am service will be what we start in Phase 1.

### **Sunday Morning Schedule – 11am**

Due to the seating capacity of our auditorium we will be able to safely gather as a congregation and abide by the 6ft social distancing. During Phase 1 we will also be recording the service for those who are at risk and cannot attend.

### **NO Sunday Growth Groups – 10am**

During Phase 1 we will continue to replace this service with our Redwood Online Thursday evening Bible study.

### **NO Wednesday Evening HomeGroup – 7pm**

During Phase 1 we will continue to have our HomeGroup via Zoom chat room.

## **Future Plans**

As things continue to improve with COVID-19 and we start shifting toward a more “normal” church schedule you can begin to look for these changes.

### **Phase 2**

At the 11am worship service we will begin to provide nursery care; as well as on the first Sunday of each month hosting Kids Church. Details about masks and social distancing will be addressed when that time comes. Downstairs bathrooms will also be in use.

Thursday night Redwood Online will continue **BUT** move to Wednesday at 7pm.

### **Phase 3**

We will add the 10am Growth Groups (Adults, Teens, Patch Club, Nursery). Details about masks and social distancing will be addressed when that time comes.

Wednesday night Redwood Online will continue at 7pm.

### **Phase 4**

We will add Wednesday HomeGroup at 7pm. This phase will happen only after social distancing is no longer required.

# APPENDIX

## Resources

1. “COVID-19 Suggested Church Reopening Guidelines,” Christian Law Association, Dr. David Gibbs
2. “Guidelines for Opening Up America Again,” prepared by the White House and CDC, April 2020
3. Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>, May 2020
4. “Checklist for Churches—Reopening of Indoor Services,” Pacific Justice Institute, April 2020
5. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) San Mateo County Department of Public Health Guidance for Faith-Based Organizations.

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