

GREEN PHASE REOPENING PLAN



July 3, 2020

NEW LIFE GLENSIDE

A Note from Pastor Mark

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

We are pleased to begin our process of re-gathering for worship this Sunday, July 5th.

It has been nearly four months since we cancelled in-person services due to COVID-19. This has been an unusual and difficult time for everyone, and it continues to be so for many of you. Nevertheless, our life as the body of Christ has continued, as we seek to connect with each other and continue our every member ministry. Please continue to reach out to your brothers and sisters!

We realize that for many of you not much will change this Sunday. According to the results from the survey earlier this week, about two-thirds of you stated that you are not planning on attending this Sunday due to health considerations. We support you in this decision, but please know we will miss you. Also, please continue to livestream our services and connect for education and fellowship.

As you know, we are in the green phase in Pennsylvania. As a general rule, the Session has deemed it right and wise to follow the recommendations of the commonwealth and health experts (Rom 13:1). Furthermore, medical caution also expresses appropriate Christian love for each other and our neighbor (John 13:34). These important biblical responsibilities are joined by another one, namely, not to give up on meeting together (Heb 10:25). Believers simply *need* each other, and in the same physical space when possible. The Session has prayerfully tried to meet all these biblical imperatives and more, although it has not always been clear how to do this. Please continue to pray for us as we move forward.

What follows is “What to Expect” information, FAQs, and more. We want the process to be smooth and understandable. We also know that some of you are still considering whether to attend this Sunday, and we hope this information will aid you in making a prayerful decision.

Even if not this Sunday, I hope to see you soon!

For Christ and His glory,
Pastor Mark

What to Expect

I'm planning to worship in the building on July 5th. Is there anything I need to do in advance?

Yes. As an act of love, please verify your health before attending.

- You should attend Sunday worship gatherings only if you don't exhibit any symptoms potentially connected to the coronavirus. According to the CDC, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and symptoms can range from mild to severe. These symptoms include:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Please make sure that you and family members attending with you can say 'no' to the following questions:
 - Am I exhibiting any of the symptoms listed above?
 - Have I had a fever (100.4 or higher) in the past 14 days?
 - Have I had prolonged exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Beyond this health check, there's really nothing else to do!

Please note that you do **not** have to register in advance to attend the service. However, this could change in the future, as we will adjust as necessary to best serve the congregation. We will notify you via email if this is the case.

If you do not receive church emails, please contact our church administrator Greg Raysor (grayson@newlifeglenside.com) to be added.

What should I expect when I show up at the building on Sunday morning?

Great question! Here is a summary of our mutual expectations:

- First of all, **please arrive between 10:20 & 10:40** for the 10:45 service, which is our only service. Everyone must sign-in, and that will take time!
- Masks are required to be worn during your entire morning at New Life. Please use our hand sanitizing stations, too.
- Use the Sunday morning entrance into the building (triple doors in the lower parking lot area). We will have attendants at the doors controlling the flow of people into the building, and providing assistance as needed.
 - *If you need to use the ramp at the upper entrance, then please let us know in advance, or look for an elder or staff person to help you.*
- Upon entering, you will be asked to sign-in. Attendants will be there to help you do this.
 - *If someone in the service is found to be infected with COVID-19, you will be notified.*

You have two choices of where to worship:

#1

In the sanctuary, where congregational singing at the end of the service will occur (with masks on). We expect most will choose this location. If the sanctuary is filled, the fellowship hall will serve as an overflow location.



#2

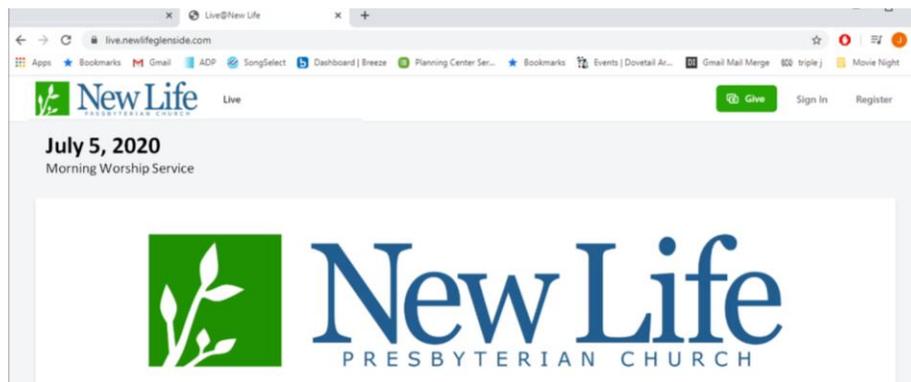
In the fellowship hall, where the service will be livestreamed. Note that there will be no congregational singing in this room.



- Upon entering the sanctuary or fellowship hall, ushers will help you locate seats for you and your family, maintaining a six-foot distance from others. This means four empty seats between people from different homes.
- **And then, finally, let us worship the Lord together!**

Alternatives to Worshiping in the Building

- We will continue to livestream services



- If you would like to worship in a small group at someone's home or backyard, please contact Nicholas Black at nblack@newlifeglenside.com.

Anything else I should know?

Reduced capacity

Due to social distancing guidelines, we will operate at a reduced capacity to maintain six feet of distance between seats. We expect to be able to host just under 100 attendees in the sanctuary, and we may reach that restricted limit this Sunday. If the sanctuary is full, the fellowship hall will serve as an overflow location. Keep in mind, however, there will be no congregational singing in the fellowship hall.

Modified service

Our service will be slightly shorter than usual, and the congregational singing will be moved to the end of the service. Also, the service will be “touch-free”: there will be no offering baskets, Bibles, or bulletins. We will not celebrate communion this Sunday, but stay tuned for future communication concerning the sacrament.

Ushers present to help

Ushers and other attendants will be present in various locations to help you know where to go. If you have any questions, please ask!

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- † Please arrive between 10:20 and 10:40.
- † Maintain social distance of 6 feet at all times.
- † Masks must be worn during entire service.
- † Households will be seated together. Children must remain with parent or guardian during entire service.
- † Shaking hands and hugging are discouraged during our gatherings.

For Your Safety and Convenience

- † Bathrooms will be available for use, one person/family unit at a time.
- † Hand sanitizer stations will be available around the building.
- † All high-touch surfaces will be sanitized prior to service.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will Kids Life be available? (5th grade and under)

There will be no in-person Kids Life available at this time. We cannot expect our young children to maintain physical distance. We feel it is safest, for now, to continue offering Kids Life online resources and opportunities.

Will AdultEd, Sr High, Jr High, and Connect 18-24 be available?

For now they will continue to meet, as they have, online and at their regular times.

With services limited to ~100 people, will there be more services offered?

Not this week, but stay tuned for potential changes in the future.

What about those who are more medically vulnerable?

If you are aware that you or someone in your household is more medically vulnerable, we would ask that you make use of the services online until the risk of in-person gatherings is reduced or eliminated.

What will we do if it is discovered a COVID-19 positive person attended our gathering?

If we are informed that someone has tested positive while gathering with us, we will follow CDC guidelines:

- The person who tested positive should self-quarantine until cleared by their doctor.
- We will inform those who may have had close contact with him or her to contact their doctor for advice and to self-quarantine for 14 days to monitor their symptoms.
- We will maintain the confidentiality of all involved.

FAQs

Will I need to RSVP to attend Sunday service?

No, but this might change in the future.

Will NLG continue to livestream during the green phase?

Yes! We have no plans of ending our livestreaming, ever.

Will the bathrooms be open?

Yes, absolutely. We ask that you would stay in your seat for the entire service if at all possible. However, if needed, the bathrooms will be open but limited to one person/family unit at a time.

Are masks required at all times during the Sunday Worship Service?

Yes. Anytime you are in the NLG facility you will need to wear a mask. The only exception will be for those on stage during the service (worship team, pastor, etc.). They will wear masks when off-stage. This exception complies with the governor's recent mask-wearing order.

Will we be allowed to shake hands and hug?

In an attempt to follow CDC guidelines, we are discouraging everyone from hugging and shaking hands during our gathering.

Is there a plan for cleaning and sanitizing?

In addition to the normal weekly cleaning and sanitizing done by our team, new cleaning and sanitizing protocols have been put into place throughout our facilities as we open. Special attention will be given to high-traffic areas and surfaces (e.g. railings, handles, bathrooms, chairs, etc.). These areas will be cleaned between services if and when we move to multiple services.

FAQs

How will the offering be received?

We will not be passing the offering baskets during the pandemic. Instead, you can continue to give in the following ways:

- There will be donation boxes set up at various locations in the building
- Mail-in donations to the church
- Autopay feature provided by your bank
- Donate at newlifeglenside.com

What happens at the conclusion of the service?

You will be instructed where to exit. We know that you may want to stay and catch up with your brothers and sisters, but please do so outdoors. And please continue to maintain physical (social) distancing.

Can you help on Sunday mornings?

Doing Sunday morning is a lot more complicated! We need a handful of weekly volunteers to help usher people into the building and maintain all of our safety procedures.

If you can volunteer, please contact Maggie Davis, our summer receptionist, at receptionist@newlifeglenside.com.