

REOPENING PLAN (revised Dec. 2020)



December 2020

NEW LIFE GLENSIDE

A Note from Pastor Mark

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

We are pleased that we have re-gathered for worship since July 5th.

We canceled in-person services for nearly four months 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 has changed in regard to in-person worship offerings. According to the results from the survey in late June, about two-thirds of you stated that you planned to not attend in person on Sundays 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.

We continue to keep an eye on news and guidance regarding mitigating spread of the virus. 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 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 on Sundays, 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 this Sunday. 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, and have not come into close contact with someone who has tested positive. According to the CDC, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and symptoms can range from being mild to severe. These symptoms include:
 - Fever or chills
 - Dry cough
 - Fatigue/tiredness
 - Shortness of breath; difficulty breathing
 - Chest pain or pressure
 - Loss of speech or movement
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Diarrhea
- If you or anyone in your family has or has had a recent fever (100.4 or higher), or has any of the above symptoms, or has been in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please stay at home.
 - The CDC recommends: If you have COVID-19, [have symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#), or have been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19, it is important to stay home and away from other people. [Cases of reinfection](#) of COVID-19 have been reported but are rare. When you can leave home and be around others depends on different factors for different situations. Follow CDC's [recommendations](#) for your circumstances.

Check out [the CDC page for Coronavirus symptoms](#) for more complete information and recommendations.

Thank you for taking care of your health and taking into consideration the health of your brothers and sisters.

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 communications/E-News coordinator Dan Johnson (djohnson@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 10:15 & 10:30** for the 10:45 service, which is currently our only service.
- 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 volunteers at the doors controlling the flow of people into the building, and providing assistance as needed.
 - *If you need to use the handicapped ramp at the upper entrance, please let us know in advance if you are able to do so (email us at receptionist@newlifeglenside.com) or ask one of the volunteers at the triple door area for assistance. They would be glad to help you.*
- Upon entering the lower lobby, you will be asked to sign in. Volunteers 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 will occur (with masks on), mostly at the end of the service. We expect most will choose this location. If the sanctuary is filled, the fellowship hall will serve as an overflow location.



#2

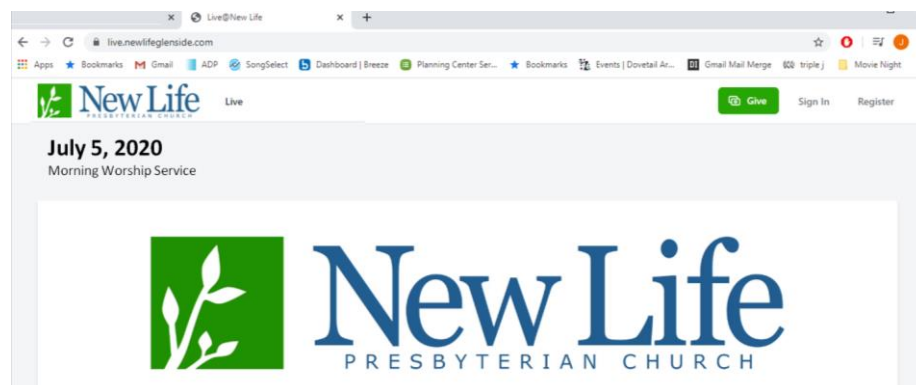
In the fellowship hall, where the service will be livestreamed. There is now congregational singing in this room as well.



- Upon entering the sanctuary or fellowship hall, ushers will be present to help you locate seats for you and your family. We have arranged the chairs in the sanctuary in seating pods maintaining a minimum of six feet (three empty seats) between family groups.
- **And then, finally, let us worship the Lord together!**

Alternatives to Worshiping in the Building

- We will continue to livestream services, probably till Jesus returns! Please register and “check in” to the top of right of [the livestream page](#) so we know you’re with us!



- Need some helping figuring out how to register or check in? Take a look at our [livestream registration page](#).

*Anything else I
should know?*

Reduced capacity

Due to physical distancing guidelines, we will operate at a reduced capacity to maintain six feet of distance between seats. We expect to be able to host roughly 120 attendees per service in the sanctuary. Full capacity is a real possibility each week. If the sanctuary is full, we will provide space for you to worship in the fellowship hall. There is now congregational singing in both the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

Modified service

- Our services will be shorter and most of the congregational singing will be towards the end of the service
- We are mostly touch-free, so offering baskets and church-provided Bibles are not available
- Offering boxes are available near the doors
- During communion Sunday (2nd Sunday of the month), new safety procedures are in place

Ushers present to help

Ushers and other volunteers 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 10:15 and 10:30.
- ✝ Maintain physical 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. (Please change the door hanger to properly indicate whether the bathroom is "occupied.")
- ✝ 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)

Yes. Our Kids Life program is currently operating in person on a roughly every-other-week basis. We will continue to offer online resources and opportunities each Sunday, regardless of whether there is an in-person offering. Please check the [Kids Life page](#) for up-to-date news about these offerings.

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

Yes! These programs are being offered at their regular times. AdultEd is currently online only, while Connect 18-24 is meeting in person. Sr. High and Jr. High are meeting in person, but are also being offered virtually (check the [website homepage](#) for links). For those meeting in person, the building safety measures apply here.

With services limited to ~120 people, will there be more services offered?

Not at this time, but we are evaluating when to add an additional service.

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 in our community 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.

What about Communion?

We are keeping to our regular schedule of celebrating the Lord's Supper the second Sunday of each month.

For those in person on Communion Sunday, we are safely distributing individual kits to family groups. For those who are not attending in person, we are offering outdoor options for Communion, including an option to remain in your vehicle.

Will NLG continue to livestream if restrictions lessen?

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. Any time 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 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 are in place throughout our facilities. 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, and collected immediately after the service
- Mail-in donations
- Autopay feature provided by your bank
- Donate at newlifeglenside.com (“Give” button at top right of webpage)

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 outdoors. If you do so, we ask that you maintain physical distancing.

Can you help on Sunday mornings?

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

Please email Greg Raysor to volunteer to help us safely conduct these Sunday services at graysor@newlifeglenside.com.