
COVID-19 RETURN PLAN

Despite the global COVID-19 pandemic, **the mission of Lemoore Presbyterian Church remains the same as always: to know Christ and make Christ known.** Our methods have changed, but our ministry continues.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

1. Outline LPC's phased plan for returning to in-person worship and ministry.
2. Provide clarity and set expectations for all staff, volunteers, and members.
3. Ensure consistent application of safety procedures during and after the pandemic.

ASSUMPTIONS

- **God is still at work** in our church and in our community.
- **Our mission remains the same:** to know Christ and make Christ known.
- **We will make decisions** about reopening based on the alignment of federal, state, county, and presbytery guidelines (i.e., we will not resume gatherings until all four governing bodies agree that it is safe to do so).
- **This plan will remain in place** until a vaccine is widely available and/or until aligned guidelines permit.

OBJECTIVES

- **To move *forward* with our mission** despite restrictions.
- **To follow relevant guidelines** to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.
- **To clearly communicate** with our congregation and community.

“The time to regather is when we can provide a better experience in the building than we can online.”

—Larry Osborne

PHASED RETURN PLAN



OFFICE	CLOSED (Dave & Mina only)	OPEN TO STAFF, OFFICERS, LEADERS	FULLY OPEN
WORSHIP	ONLINE ONLY	LIMITED IN-PERSON + ONLINE	IN-PERSON + ONLINE
FELLOWSHIP HOUR	CANCELLED	CANCELLED	NO RESTRICTIONS
CHILDCARE	NONE	PARENT/GUARDIAN ONLY	FULL CHILDCARE
PASTORAL CARE	ONLINE & PHONE; CRISIS VISITS ONLY	LIMITED W/ PRECAUTIONS	RESUMED VISITATION
OFFICER MEETINGS	ESSENTIAL ONLY + ONLINE & EMAIL	AS SCHEDULED W/ PRECAUTIONS	REGULAR MEETINGS
SMALL GROUPS & SUNDAY SCHOOL	ONLINE ONLY	LIMITED W/ PRECAUTIONS	NO RESTRICTIONS
YOUTH & FAMILIES	ONLINE ONLY	CASE-BY-CASE	NO RESTRICTIONS
PRESCHOOL	CANCELLED	??	REOPENED
FUNERALS/WEDDINGS	SERVICES POSTPONED	GRAVESIDE & SMALL SERVICES	FULL SERVICES
EVENTS	ALL EVENTS CANCELLED	CASE-BY-CASE	NO RESTRICTIONS

RETURN TIMELINE

- **PHASE 1** – Current status.
- **PHASE 2** – Triggered by:
 - ✓ Alignment of federal, state, county, and presbytery guidelines.
 - Approval of Session.
 - Implementation of health & safety protocols.
 - Congregational Assessment
- **PHASE 3** – Triggered by:
 - Alignment of federal, state, county, and presbytery guidelines.
 - Approval of Session.
 - Congregational Assessment
- **RESOURCE DOCUMENTS & WEBSITES**
 - Federal – “Opening Up America Again” www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/
 - State – “Resilience Roadmap” covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/
 - County – www.countyofkings.com/departments/administration/reopen-kings

RELEVANT GUIDELINES

- **FEDERAL PHASE 1**
 - Vulnerable populations shelter in place.
 - Gatherings limited to 10 people.
 - Social distance of 6+ feet.
 - Minimize non-essential travel.
- **STATE PHASE 2**
 - Gradual reopen of retail, manufacturing, etc.
 - Social distance of 6+ feet.
 - Masks required.
 - Religious services still prohibited.
- **COUNTY PHASE 2**—Aligns with state guidelines.
- **PRESBYTERY**—In-person religious services discouraged until county/city restrictions lift.

OFFICE

- **STATUS**
 - Church office is officially closed to non-essential in-person visits.
 - Pastor Dave and Mina work limited in-office hours.
 - Telework encouraged (voicemail can be checked remotely).
- **PEOPLE**
 - At-risk individuals should not visit the office.
 - Except for Pastor Dave and Mina, staff should work from home.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Communication with the church office should be by phone or email.
 - Voicemails will be checked daily and can be checked remotely.
- **PREVENTION AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - People in the office will maintain 6ft social distance.
 - Masks worn when multiple people are in the same room.
 - Hand sanitizer will be used before and after touching shared materials.
 - All touched surfaces will be disinfected before and after office hours.

WORSHIP

- **STATUS**
 - In-person services cancelled; Online Worship videos posted to YouTube.
 - Sermons printed and mailed to members without access to YouTube.
- **PEOPLE**—All members will worship at home.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Videos posted to YouTube channel (subscribers will receive notifications)
 - Weekly E-Newsletter with link to video.
 - Social media posts with link to video.
 - Church website with link to YouTube channel.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—N/A

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- **STATUS**—CANCELLED
- **PEOPLE**—N/A
- **COMMUNICATION**—N/A
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—N/A

CHILDCARE

- **STATUS**—N/A
- **PEOPLE**
 - Childcare staff will continue to be paid.
- **COMMUNICATION**—N/A
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—N/A

PASTORAL CARE

- **STATUS**
 - Not allowed at hospitals, nursing homes, etc.
 - Deacons will contact Parish Lists every two weeks.
 - Pastor Dave will make crisis visits only.
 - Mina will continue the Prayer Tree.
- **PEOPLE**
 - Members are encouraged to share needs with Pastor or Deacon by phone/email.
 - Call or email office to add Prayer Tree requests.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Conducted primarily by phone and email.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - In-person visits will require mask, distancing, and hand sanitizer

OFFICER MEETINGS

- **STATUS**
 - Business conducted online via email and video.
 - In-person meetings only when necessary.
- **PEOPLE**
 - Officers check email frequently and participate in online discussions.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Conducted primarily by phone and email.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - In-person meetings will observe distancing, masks, hand and surface disinfecting.

SMALL GROUPS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

- **STATUS**
 - Sunday School via Zoom.
 - Other groups may meet via Zoom.
 - Resources distributed to parents and groups via email.
- **PEOPLE**
 - Aubrey Bisher (Family Ministry Coordinator), Sandy Hudson (Discipleship Elder), groups leaders & members.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Group leaders stay in touch with members.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS—N/A**

YOUTH & FAMILIES

- **STATUS**
 - Assemble gatherings cancelled.
 - Youth Group events cancelled.
 - Family ministry online via Zoom (Sunday School) and other.
- **PEOPLE**
 - Aubrey (FMC) stays in touch with families to assess needs.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Conducted primarily by phone, email, and social media.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS—N/A**

PRESCHOOL

- **STATUS—CLOSED**
- **PEOPLE—Preschool staff & board**
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Preschool Liaison (Louella Moreland).
 - Preschool staff (Lisa Renner).
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS—N/A**

EVENTS

- **STATUS—CANCELLED** (not scheduling new events or approving requests)
- **PEOPLE—N/A**
- **COMMUNICATION—N/A**
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS—N/A**

LPC PHASE 2 - REDUCED

RELEVANT GUIDELINES

- **FEDERAL PHASE 2**
 - Vulnerable populations practice social distancing, masks, and other precautions.
 - Unrestricted staffing of worksites.
 - Places of worship can operate with limited physical distancing protocols.
- **STATE PHASE 3**
 - Religious services allowed with size restrictions.
 - Continue physical distancing and disinfecting protocols.
- **COUNTY PHASE 3**—Aligns with state guidelines.
- **PRESBYTERY**—In-person religious services encouraged with precautions.

FOR EVERYONE

- **STAY HOME IF**
 - You or someone at home is at risk (60+, underlying health condition).
 - You or someone at home is sick (any illness, even just a cold).
 - You have been in close contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- **HANDS-FREE WORSHIP**
 - For everyone's safety please refrain from handshakes, hugs, etc.
- **PARKING**
 - Every other stall.
- **RESTROOMS**
 - One person at a time in all restrooms.
- **IF A MEMBER IS DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19**
 - They must quarantine at home.
 - If they attended an in-person gathering at LPC within 14 days prior to testing positive, all LPC in-person gatherings will be suspended for 2 weeks and members will watch for symptoms.

OFFICE

- **STATUS**
 - Church office is open to staff, officers, and leaders.
 - Staff resume normal hours.
- **PEOPLE**
 - At-risk individuals should not visit the office.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Communication with the church office should be by phone or email (call before visiting).
 - Voicemails will be checked daily and can be checked remotely.
- **PREVENTION AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - People in the office will maintain 6ft social distance.
 - Masks worn when multiple people are in the same room.
 - Hand sanitizer will be used before and after touching shared materials.
 - All touched surfaces will be disinfected before and after office hours.

LPC PHASE 2 - REDUCED

WORSHIP

- **STATUS**
 - In-person services resume.
 - Services will be live streamed via Facebook or YouTube.
 - Sermons printed and mailed to members without access to live stream.
- **PEOPLE**
 - At-risk people should stay home and participate via livestream.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Announcement to congregation on all media platforms that services are resuming.
 - Inform congregation about new safety protocols and guidelines.
 - Email and social media links to live stream.
 - Update church website with reopen announcement and guidelines.
 - Add signage around church.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - **Limit sanctuary and Fellowship Hall to 25% capacity (34 in sanctuary; 26 in FH).**
 - Hands-free worship (all physical contact is discouraged).
 - Masks strongly encouraged (required of staff and volunteers).
 - Hand sanitizer stations at all entrances.
 - Greeters will manage social distancing at entrances and sanitize door handles as needed.
 - DISCONTINUE: singing, responsive readings, communion, passing of the peace, offering plates & guestbooks, seat cushions.
 - Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected before and after service.
 - Restrooms: one person at a time only.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- **STATUS—CANCELLED**
- **PEOPLE—N/A**
- **COMMUNICATION—N/A**
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS—N/A**

CHILDCARE

- **STATUS**
 - Children should remain in the care of those in their household unit and not interact with children of other parties at any time while visiting facilities.
 - Tables in Fellowship Hall will be available for families with children (1 household per table).
 - Childcare staff will provide table activities (coloring, etc.) and assist families as needed with minimal physical contact.
- **PEOPLE**
 - Childcare staff will continue to be paid.
 - Parents encouraged to attend with children who can social distance and wear face mask.
- **COMMUNICATION—N/A**
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - Close off playground and classrooms.

PASTORAL CARE

- **STATUS**
 - Hospital and nursing home visits as allowed.
 - Pastor will resume in-person home/office visits as people feel comfortable.
 - Deacons will contact Parish Lists every month.
 - Mina will continue the Prayer Tree.
- **PEOPLE**
 - Members are encouraged to share needs with Pastor or Deacon by phone/email.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Conducted primarily by phone and email.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - In-person visits should still be done with mask, distancing, and hand sanitizer

OFFICER MEETINGS

- **STATUS**
 - Resume regular in-person monthly meeting schedule.
 - At-risk officers should join meetings via video.
- **PEOPLE**—All officers.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Conducted primarily by phone and email.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - In-person meetings will observe distancing, masks, hand and surface disinfecting.

SMALL GROUPS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

- **STATUS**
 - Sunday School via Zoom.
 - Groups of 10 or less may meet in person or continue Zoom gatherings.
 - Resources distributed to parents and groups via email.
- **PEOPLE**
 - Aubrey Bisher (Family Ministry Coordinator), Sandy Hudson (Discipleship Elder), groups leaders & members.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Group leaders stay in touch with members.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - In-person gatherings of 10 or less.
 - Maintain hands-free interactions and social distancing of 6+ feet (masks recommended).
 - Disinfect all touched surfaces and materials as needed.

YOUTH & FAMILIES

- **STATUS**
 - Assemble gatherings cancelled.
 - Youth Group events cancelled.
 - Family ministry online via Zoom (Sunday School) and other.
- **PEOPLE**
 - Aubrey (FMC) stays in touch with families to assess needs.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Conducted primarily by phone, email, and social media.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - In-person gatherings of 10 or less.
 - Maintain hands-free interactions and social distancing of 6+ feet (masks recommended).
 - Disinfect all touched surfaces and materials as needed.

PRESCHOOL

- **STATUS**—Subject to state guidelines for preschools and daycare centers.
- **PEOPLE**—Preschool staff & board
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Preschool Liaison (Louella Moreland).
 - Preschool staff (Lisa Renner).
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—According to state protocols.

EVENTS

- **STATUS**—CANCELLED (not scheduling new events or approving requests)
- **PEOPLE**—N/A
- **COMMUNICATION**—N/A
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—N/A

LPC PHASE 3 – RESTORED

RELEVANT GUIDELINES

- **FEDERAL PHASES COMPLETED**
 - No federal restrictions.
- **STATE PHASE 4**
 - End of stay-at-home order.
 - Therapeutics and/or vaccine has been developed.
- **COUNTY PHASE 4**—Aligns with state guidelines.
- **PRESBYTERY**—In-person religious services encouraged (with precautions as needed).

FOR EVERYONE

- **STAY HOME IF**
 - You or someone at home is sick (any illness, even just a cold).
 - You have been in close contact with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19.

OFFICE

- **STATUS**—Fully reopened.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Resume normal communications.
 - Continue increased use of website and social media.
- **PREVENTION AND DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—Standard hygiene practices.

WORSHIP

- **STATUS**
 - In-person services resume.
 - Services will be live streamed via Facebook or YouTube.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Announcement to congregation on all media platforms that Phase 2 is over.
 - Email and social media links to live stream.
 - Update church website with reopen announcement and guidelines.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - Singing and communion will resume.
 - Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected before and after service.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- **STATUS**—Resumed.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**—Coordinated by Fellowship Elder.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected before and after fellowship hour.

LPC PHASE 3 – RESTORED

CHILDCARE

- **STATUS**—Fully resumed.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**—Coordinated by Nursery Deacon and childcare staff.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - Frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected before and after fellowship hour.
 - Toys and supplies will be disinfected every week.

PASTORAL CARE

- **STATUS**
 - Pastor resumes regular in-person visitation.
 - Pastor resumes home communion.
 - Deacons will contact Parish Lists every quarter.
 - Mina will continue the Prayer Tree.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**—Normal
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - Hand washing/sanitizing before and after all in-person visits.

OFFICER MEETINGS

- **STATUS**
 - Resume regular in-person monthly meeting schedule.
 - Stay home if you are sick.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**—Normal.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—N/A

SMALL GROUPS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

- **STATUS**—Fully resumed.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Aubrey & Sandy H. coordinate announcements to families and Sunday school teachers.
 - Group leaders stay in touch with members.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - Maintain good (standard) disinfecting protocols.

YOUTH & FAMILIES

- **STATUS**—Fully resumed.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**—Normal (continue increased social media communication).
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**
 - Maintain good (standard) disinfecting protocols.

PRESCHOOL

- **STATUS**—Fully resumed.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**
 - Preschool Liaison (Louella Moreland).
 - Preschool staff (Lisa Renner).
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—According to state protocols.

EVENTS

- **STATUS**—Fully resumed.
- **PEOPLE**—no restrictions.
- **COMMUNICATION**—As needed.
- **PREVENTION & DISINFECTION PROTOCOLS**—Standard practice.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

WHAT TO EXPECT

PARKING

- Leave an empty stall between you and the next car if possible.
- If someone is in the stall next to you, take turns exiting the car in order to maintain distance.

ENTERING

- Put on your face mask before entering (or pick one up from the greeter).
- Let the greeter open and close the door for you. Avoid touching the door handles yourself.
- Use hand sanitizer upon entering.
- Stay 6+ feet apart from other people.
- Greet people in a friendly but hands-free way.

SEATING

- In the sanctuary, please fill the pews front to back to minimize people walking past each other.
- Pews will be marked to indicate where you can sit while maintaining social distance. Family members from a single household may sit closer together.
- Tables in Fellowship Hall will be reserved for families with young children (1 household per table).
- Following guidance from our insurance company, pew cushions will not be available.

CHILDCARE

- Tables in Fellowship Hall will be available for families with children (1 household per table).
- Children may move around Fellowship Hall. Parents will monitor and encourage distancing.
- Childcare staff will be available to help but will avoid physical contact.

BULLETINS

- Bulletins will be placed in the pews and on tables for you ahead of time.

DURING THE SERVICE

- Please keep your mask on during the service.
- Worshipful music will be played through the speakers, but there will be no congregational singing.
- Guestbooks will not be used.
- Offering plates will not be passed. There will be offering boxes available to deposit donations/tithes.

AFTER THE SERVICE

- Please leave your pew or table clean (pick up bulletins, papers, etc.).
- Exit the sanctuary pews from back to front to minimize people passing each other.
- Visiting is welcome (with distancing), but there will be no food or drink for Fellowship Hour.
- Use hand sanitizer upon exiting.
- Let the greeter open and close the door for you to minimize contact with door handles.
- If someone is parked next to you, take turns entering vehicle to maintain social distance.