



GATHERED
for strength



Introduction

During the week of March 15, 2020, the Ashland pastors and staff convened to prayerfully consider how Ashland should respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time the decision was made to suspend all in-person gatherings indefinitely to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus out of love for neighbor and respect for government officials (Mt. 22:39, Rom. 13:1). Since that time, the Ashland staff has responded by providing scattered worship resources each Sunday, by equipping BFGs to gather online each week through Zoom, by providing daily Strength for the Scattered devotionals, by leading daily times of prayer on Facebook, and by working with our deacons to ensure that every member of our church family is contacted by phone and prayed for each week, among other things.

As we approach the middle of May, with the economy opening up in various ways, it is time to begin thinking about how we will gradually, safely, and responsibly begin to gather again in-person as an Ashland family. This will be done with government, CDC, and other health professionals' guidance in mind.

There is no question that we desire to gather in-person. However, we desire to gather in a wise and responsible way. In addition to helping us avoid gathering too soon, a phased plan will help us avoid staying in scattered worship for too long. In consultation with guidance released by Governor Beshear and the CDC up to this point, we will adhere to the three-phased plan outlined in this document. Currently we are in Phase 0, but we will move to Phase 1 on May 31 as we gather together in multiple services for corporate worship. Tentative phases are outlined below and are subject to change based on health trends and guidelines. In addition, we will employ the following best practices:



Best Practices for Health Safety

- **General Guidance:** Each person has a responsibility to look out for the welfare of others. From the CDC, symptoms may appear **2-14 days** after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms **may** have COVID-19 and should avoid gathering with the church for **14 days** following the onset of symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least **two** of these symptoms:

 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
- **Appropriate Social Distance:** We will use the 6 feet standard to calculate the distance between family units in pews and chairs, worship leaders, and all servant teams and staff.
- **Provide COVID-19 Protection:** We will offer masks and hand sanitizing stations throughout the building and at entrances and exits. All servant teams will wear masks and gloves.
- **Discourage Personal Contact:** We will discontinue our greeting time during worship to maintain social distance.
- **Clean Vigorously:** Our facilities will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to gathering again on May 31. The facilities will be vigorously cleaned between each worship service and between each use of a classroom with CDC approved cleaners and sanitizers. The facilities will also be cleaned and sanitized throughout the week.
- **Follow CDC Guidelines:** We will follow specific CDC guidelines for children and student ministry as well as encouraging those with underlying health conditions to wisely consider when they should gather again in-person with our church family.

Worship and BFG Options

We will continue to offer livestreaming of worship in all phases.

We will strongly suggest which in-person service you should attend with your family based on our adult BFGs. We aim to strategically maximize our facility to accommodate our church family in two services (8:50 AM & 11:11 AM) at proper social distance. Families, including all children, will be seated together.

BFGs should continue to meet online through Phase 1. During Phase 2, groups can gather in homes or, during approved times, in the Great Commission Center so long as social distancing is maintained. Groups with high risk populations may consider meeting online until later phases.



ASHLAND LEX THREE PHASE PLAN

	Phase 0 Current	Phase 1 (May 31)	Phase 2 (TBD)	Phase 3 (TBD)
Vulnerable Populations*	Stay Home	Individual Discretion	Individual Discretion	Normal
Those w/ COVID-19 Symptoms	Stay Home	Stay Home	Stay Home	Stay Home
Worship Services	Drive-In	8:50 & 11:11 Services / Reduced Seating	8:50 & 11:11 Services / Reduced Seating	Regular Schedule
	Livestream	Livestream	Livestream	Livestream
Adult BFG	Online only	Online only	Online In homes On Campus available	Normal
Nursery-Elementary	Suspended	Suspended	Limited	Normal
Students	Online	Online	Some activities may return to normal	Normal
Worship Team	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Choir	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended	Normal
Ministry Events	Suspended	Suspended	Some activities may be modified	As scheduled
Restrooms	Closed	Limited Access	Limited Access	Normal
Equipped Wednesdays	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended	Normal

***Vulnerable populations as defined by the CDC** include but are not limited to:

- Individuals 65 years and older
- Individuals with serious underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised (such as by chemotherapy or cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy)



FAQ

Which service should I attend?

In order for our church family to gather in two services at appropriate social distances, we strongly suggest you and your family attend based on the following adult BFG schedule:

8:50 Service: Christianity 101 (Leader: Kevin Yu), Disciples (Leader: Joe Cooke), Foundations (Leader: Breck Gould), Good Samaritan (Leader: Mary Ann Johnson), Harrodsburg (Leader: Justin Camblin), I2 (Leader: Jon Canler), Monticello (Leader: Kenneth Clayton), Pridemore (Leader: Kevin Pridemore), Seekers (Leader: Richard Shultz), Walker Memorial (Leader: Don Hargis), Young Professionals (Leader: Russ Russell)

11:11 Service: Acts 29 (Leaders: Jonathan Stiles & Sam Wood), Agape (Leader: Roger Holland), Andover (Leader: Ryan Tenges), Burnt Mill (Leader: Pastor Nate), Fellowship (Leader: Jacob Moore), Johnston (Leader: Ryan Muchow), Men's 1 & 2 (Leader: Chris Felty), Shining Lights (Leaders: Pat Hisel & Judi Prince), Soldados (Leader: William Sanchez)

How will we make sure people are not sitting too close to one another?

We have developed a seating plan based on family size utilizing the CDC recommendation of 6' per family separation guideline (side-to-side and front to back). Pews will be clearly marked indicating where people can sit and the space that is "unavailable." Ushers will seat your family in accordance with our seating plan so that you can be assured your family can sit together at proper social distances from others. Family units can sit together provided that they reside in the same home.

Where do I enter?

You will be able to enter the building through the front doors, the rear doors, and the office doors 15 minutes prior to the service start time. The Journey Entrance will be closed as that location will serve as an overflow area. We ask that you enter the Worship Center through the main rear doors. We will have Frontline servants opening each exterior door while the main Worship Center doors will be propped open to ensure a "touchless" entry.

Will the restrooms be open?

Yes. Restrooms will be open, but their access will be limited. You should enter the restrooms through the Family Center and exit into the Main Hall. Should a line form, the line will queue along the perimeter wall of the Family Center, men to the side with the Ashland wall pad and women to the kitchen side, in order to keep the Main Hall from becoming excessively crowded.

How will the offering be received?

Offering plates will not be passed. There will be boxes at each exit to the building where you can give once the service is dismissed. You can continue to give online at ashlandlex.org/give or by mailing your offering to the church office (483 W. Reynolds Rd, Lexington, KY 40503).

Will there be children's ministry available?

Nursery, preschool, and other rooms for children are not resuming at this time. We look forward to children of all ages gathering with us in our approximately one hour long corporate worship services.

Where should I park?

There are no restrictions where people can park. Our lot is large and spacious for two services.