



REOPENING STRATEGY

New Life Christian Center Jackson, Tennessee

|| June 2020 ||

New Life Family-

Words cannot express how much we have missed being able to gather with you in person during this season of quarantine. Our prayer is that your love for Christ is deepening during this time and that we will all come back from this with a greater appreciation for the need for fellowship with other believers.

We have been praying about what reopening our physical gatherings should look like and planning a timeline that is intentional and easy to understand. Some things that we have kept in mind as we planned are:

- The call to fellowship with other believers. Online fellowship is a good complement to our ministry but not a complete alternative.
- The responsibility to love our people and protect our more vulnerable population without making them feel left out of church life.
- The need to follow guidelines from civil authorities whenever possible.
- The call to be a witness and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in the practical steps that we take and in the way that we talk about reopening. We want our speech to be gracious and seasoned with salt.
- The need for a wise plan with realistic timing. We don't want to jump in too early and have to keep readjusting when and if the virus spikes in our area. We also need time for our team to get safety protocols in place for reopening our physical campus.

We have been blessed with several knowledgeable and wise peoples in our New Life family and have been developing this plan with you in mind. Of course, there is no perfect reopening plan that will suit every church member's preference. As we take steps to reopen, let's all willingly submit our preferences to a generalized plan to achieve the greater good, maintaining the unity of the body. We understand that this plan will feel too fast for some and too slow for others. That's the beauty of having a diverse congregation! Thank you for using this as an opportunity to honor others in our church family who feel differently than you and for honoring your pastors as they shepherd.

The plan on the following page is meant to be flexible. Adapt it to fit your unique situation and your own caution level while at the same time not giving in to fear or becoming apathetic about the need for fellowship. COVID is obviously a fluid situation with unpredictable regional spikes. As a result, while this timeline represents our planned phased re-opening, we may have to adjust our timeline based on the COVID status in the community.

We love each and every one of you and are honored to serve and lead this church family.

In his service,

Apostle Barry T. and Pastor Angelia Chaney

& The New Life Board of Directors

New Life Christian Center REOPENING PLAN
NEW LIFE FOUR PHASE PLAN

Social Distancing	PHASE ZERO (Current)	PHASE ONE – Beginning 7/5 (Limited)	PHASE TWO - TBD (Moderated)	PHASE THREE - TBD (Normal)
Vulnerable Populations*	Stay Home	Stay Home	Individual Discretion	Individual Discretion
Those w/Symptoms of COVID-19	Stay Home	Stay Home	Stay Home	Stay Home
Max Groups/Crowds	10 or less	50% Capacity/ Reduced Seating/ Social Distancing	Reduced Seating/ Social Distancing	Normal Capacity
Sunday Worship Services	Livestream	Reduced Seating/ Livestream **Registration required	Reduced Seating/ Livestream	Regular Schedule/ Livestream
Wednesday Worship Services	Livestream	Livestream	Reduced Seating/ Livestream	Regular Schedule/ Livestream
Monday Prayer	Conference Call	Conference Call	Reduced Seating	Regular Schedule
Youth Services	Zoom	Zoom	Social Distancing	Regular Schedule
Ministry Events	Suspended	Suspended	Some activities may be modified	As Scheduled
Staff	Suspended	Limited Access	Moderate Access	Normal
Restrooms		Limited Access	Limited Access	Normal

*Vulnerable Populations as Defined by the CDC: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/needextra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>).

Vulnerable populations include, but is not limited to:

- Individuals 65 years old 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)

**To aid in our planning, registration is required to attend phase 1 services. At least one member from each family must register. Only one registration is necessary for each family unit. Register by going to newlifetn.org and clicking on the member tab.

Important Note: At any point, we may be required to begin at Phase 0 again or continue one phase longer than another depending on the severity or reoccurrence of the COVID outbreak.

Phase 0: Extreme Physical Distancing/Stay At Home Order

- All on-campus services and activities remain suspended until Stay at Home Order is lifted and we enter Phase 1 of reopening.
- Continue to produce video messages to be viewed via Facebook, our website and DVD.
- Continue to host weekly Intercessory Prayer and Youth Bible Study
 - Youth Bible study will be held via ZOOM.
 - Prayer via Conference Call
- Utilize online giving and mailed checks for tithes and offerings.

Phase 1: Limited Social Distancing

- When Phase 1 begins, we will begin holding Sunday morning service at 10 a.m. This service will continue for the duration of Phase 1. All other inside services and activities remain suspended for the length of Phase 1.
 - The service will be limited to 1 hour and a half to minimize need for bathroom facilities.
 - Doors will open at 9:45 a.m. by security. Please remain in your vehicles until this time to prevent the spread of the virus.
 - No gathering/mingling inside of the foyer or sanctuary.
 - Guests are asked to go directly to their seats.
 - The gym may be used for overflow
- Anyone inside the building will be required to wear a face mask. Those leading the service will wear a face mask when they are not speaking or singing. Participants should bring their own face mask. A limited number of masks will be available for those who may not have one.
- Participants will be encouraged to maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet apart. This guidance does not apply to family members of the same household.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available.
- Continue to use online and mail in giving. You may also choose to give in the offering as you arrive for service or as you are exiting. No marching around for giving.
- There will be no children's activities through the end of Phase 1.
- The Sunday morning message will be available on YouTube, Facebook, and DVD.
- The facility will be disinfected between services.

Phase 2: Moderate Physical Distancing

- We will ease back into a more normal routine for gathering during Phase 2.
- This may include resuming Bible Study and some limited children's activities
- Hand sanitizer stations will still be available.
- Face masks may be required.
- Giving may still need to follow the plan for Phase 1.
- Special precautions will be taken for observing Holy Communion.
- Specifics will be worked out as we move through the phases and get closer to this point.

Additional Considerations:

- There remains uncertainty regarding specific restrictions that will be in place from state and local government at each phase.
- If we are still in Phase 1 as Fall turns to Winter, we may need to explore our options for utilizing the church building to meet in smaller groups.
- In each phase, we will seek to balance our Biblical mandate to gather, submission to government authorities, and the safety of everyone as we resume gathering.
- While those most vulnerable to the virus may need to limit their interaction more than others, we will not forget them as we move through these phases.

Health Concerns - In the last 14 days have you or anyone in your family:

- Shown any flu-like symptoms?
- Had a fever above 100 degrees?
- Had exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
- Had any medical reason to not be around others?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, please worship from your home utilizing our online services at newlifetn.org or on [Facebook](#).

FAQ

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

We will utilize the CDC recommendation of 6' per person separation guideline. Every second seat has been blocked off for use. Family units, defined as people residing in the same home, can sit together.

What if more people show up than we can accommodate in the sanctuary?

We've anticipated using the FLEC as an overflow. Essentially, people would have a group livestream experience there. Because we use chairs in that space, we can implement the 6' per person separation guideline fairly easily.

Where do I enter?

We will limit access into the building to the front glass doors for the sanctuary. In addition, all external and internal doors will be propped open or held open by a Greeter, to ensure a "touchless" entry.

Should I wear a mask?

You are encouraged to wear a mask, gloves and any other personal protective equipment that you wish. We will have a limited number of masks available for those who desire to wear one. However, recommend people bring masks with them when they enter the building.

Will the bathrooms be open?

Yes, but will be limited to one person at a time, particularly in Phase One. We will attempt to clean handles and surfaces throughout the morning. And, of course, signage reminding folks to wash their hands.

How will the offering be received?

Greeters will hold offering buckets at the exit doors at the end of the service to receive the offering.

What about Communion?

Communion will be limited during Phase One. When we have communion, we will provide additional instruction to maintain social distancing.

Will there be Youth Ministry available?

There will be no in person Youth Ministry available during Phase One. It is difficult to ask school age children to social distance! As such, we have determined that our "safest" approach is to continue gathering via Zoom. Under the White House plan, schools are allowed to reopen in Phase Two. So, we anticipate some type of return to Youth's Ministry in Phase Two, although it will be limited in scope.

Where should I park?

There are no restrictions on where people can park. Our lots are large and spacious, however please be mindful of social distancing while exiting cars to enter the building.

What happens at the conclusion of the service?

We know that you may want to stay and visit, however, you are requested to maintain social distancing while moving to your cars using any exit from the sanctuary.

Who do I contact if I have questions I need answered before returning to church?

You are encouraged to talk to your church leader or the Pastor of Congregational Life with any questions