

COVID-19 Reopening Plans for Selinsgrove Church of the Nazarene

5/15/2020

Purpose of this Document

To provide clarity on recovery & assimilation efforts for SCN operations, church services, facility, and staffing changes in response to COVID-19.

This document provides guidance for the following:

- Definitions
- Biblical Response
- Recovery Timeline and Milestones
- Service & Ministry Changes / Online Strategy
- Facility Changes / Sanitization

Definitions:

Vulnerable members: Over the age of 65 or immune-system compromised

Social Distancing / Physical Distancing / Close-Contact: The Surgeon General and CDC strongly recommend that we keep social distancing (a 6' buffer between people) at all times throughout Phase 1, which may be relaxed in later phases. At our church we have adopted a similar phrase that accomplished the same meaning but allows for us to continue to work at staying connected. Here at SCN we will use the phrase physical distancing, rather than social distancing. We agree with Government guidelines and recommendations but want to be sure we emphasize our staying connected throughout this crisis. For those conducting services during Phases 1-2, physical distancing needs to be adhered to.

Following Phase 3, the return to services will likely result in a mass flood of members wishing to return to see those they've been apart from over the last few months. There will be a desire for people to come in close contact with one another, which should be avoided temporarily in Phase 3, and for our staff and congregation to be cautious of even into Phase 4.

Illness/Sick: Those who are not feeling like "normal" healthy self. Symptoms that warrant consideration of worshipping "at home" vs "in person" include but are not limited to (Fever, Cough, Seasonal allergies that manifest in excessive sneezing, upset stomach, nausea, flu like aches, etc...)

Biblical Response

- We will plan to comply with the Pennsylvania State Governmental requirements regarding assembling. We believe respecting the authority of our Government leaders guidance pleases the Lord (Romans 13:1-5) and allows for us to be promoters of peace and unity rather than division in our community. We desire to bring hope and encouragement to those who lead as well as with those of us who are being guided and led.

- We understand that there are a variety of other cautions that people feel and will follow. We will encourage full respect of those who are either more cautious or less cautious than ourselves.
- As Christians, we are to be considerate of one another. Romans 12:10 is instructive: “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves”.
- We want those that are a part of our Church family to feel comfortable with their timing and level of re-engagement without any pressure either way.
- Our plan is to move cautiously toward reopening and know that our decisions about reopening will be adjusted as the events around us warrant. As such, we plan for a gradual return to activities and meeting together and can accelerate or slow down these plans as we move forward.

Recovery Timeline and Milestones

SCN recovery timetables are predicated on the Phase requirements set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). While some SCN programs will continue during all phases, they may have different expressions (online vs in-person group gatherings) depending on the Phase Milestone we're currently under.



	PHASE 1 Restricted operations	PHASE 2 Reduced Operations	PHASE 3 Limited Operations	PHASE 4 Steady-State Operations
Campus	Closed	Closed	Open	Open
Services	Online/FB/Youtube	Online/FB/Youtube	Online / In Person	In person/ Online option
Life Groups	Online/ Zoom Only	Online/ In person	In person / Online	In person
Events	Cancelled	Cancelled	Case by Case	Allowed
Children's Min	Cancelled	Cancelled	Limited in person	Allowed
Teen Min	Zoom/ Online only	Zoom/ Limited in person	In person	In person
Counseling	Online / Zoom	Zoom/ In person when approved	In person w/out approval	In Person
Staff Location	Essential only	Essential only	All Staff on site	All Staff on Site
Vulnerable	Online Only	Online Only	Online Only	In person

Worship Service & other Ministry Changes

Services are currently being conducted online only, recording live and broadcasting over Church Online (You Tube) and Facebook. Services will remain online Sunday through Phase 1-2. We are currently looking at possibilities to offer an IN-PERSON Service option when the time is right. Phase 3 Will involve both ONLINE and IN PERSON service options as we transition to a New Normal. There is still no definitive timetable, but rest assured as soon as we are able, we will be ready to meet again, albeit with a few changes:

Protection of Vulnerable Members

People over the age of 65, those with compromised immune systems, or anyone who is sick is strongly encouraged to participate in online services until Phase 4. This will be communicated via multiple methods (including mailer). Volunteers in the vulnerable category will be asked not to serve until Phase 4 is achieved.

Service Elements

Until further notice, service elements that come into contact with multiple people will be changed to reduce contact between church members.

- ILLNESS- If you are feeling ill or under the weather, we would ask you to please consider staying home until you feel fully recovered for your own safety and the safety of others.
- Masks will NOT be required, however, if an individual feels more comfortable they should feel free to wear their mask.
- Gloves will be used by all individuals tasked with distributing items.
- Seating will be staggered throughout sanctuary. Only every other pew will be open. Immediate family groups may sit together but a space of 6ft should remain between family groups.
- IN PERSON Communion will be discontinued until Phase 3. In Phase 3, communion will no longer be served in one serving tray that gets passed through rows. Communion servers equipped with gloves will distribute elements to each recipient as they make their way to designated areas. Recipient will cup hands together to receive elements.
- Pens, Bibles, Note cards will be removed from circulation until Phase 4.
- Commonly kept items (Bibles, mints, anointing oils, earplugs) will be distributed at the NEXT STEPS connection center only.
- Pew pads will be discontinued until at least phase 4.
- Offering can be placed in offering plate at front of sanctuary at any point during the service or Ushers will be standing near the rear of the sanctuary at the close of the service. We also always encourage you to consider giving online as this is the fastest and safest way to ensure giving is received and recorded.

Life Groups

Limited IN PERSON life groups (PHASE 2 & 3) should be scheduled through Terry Heintzelman to ensure adequate space for Physical distancing.

Phase 2 Available spaces (Lower level: Teen Room, Jr High SS Room 13, Room 12; Upper level Room 24, 23&22, sanctuary)

Phase 3 Upstairs fellowship hall may be added when completed.

Welcome Team

The welcome ministry team (greeters, ushers, parking TEAM, communion TEAM, NEXT STEPS TEAM) interact with people and typically are in close contact with church members. Until further notice, volunteer TEAM members will not engage in physical contact to make church members feel comfortable. A simple wave and a friendly greeting is sufficient to welcome people into the church. Even if our volunteers feel comfortable greeting with a handshake or hug, it may make others uncomfortable. Training will be conducted prior to returning to services on site. The following will be practiced by the Welcome Team:

Coffee & Community

- Free coffee will be discontinued until Phase 4. You may bring with you your own coffee. Fellowship time will be discontinued until at least phase 4

Misc Items

- Masks will be provided as available and if necessary.
- No returns will be allowed to the information stations (pens, etc).
- Hearing assist devices will not be available until Phase 4 and will be disinfected upon return to the sound booth.
- Where possible we encourage you to leave one parking space between each car that is on site.
- Lingering to talk in facility is discouraged during Red and Yellow phases. Individuals who want to gather may do so in the church parking lot, making sure to keep a 6ft distance.

Facility Changes / Sanitization

The following facility changes have been made to protect the congregation before, during, and following services on campus.

- Additional (volunteer) cleaning service team members will be needed and used to support additional disinfecting efforts.
- Disinfecting efforts include: High-touch areas (doors, computers, restrooms, sanctuary, student, and children's areas)
- Hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout the facility.

We are humbly and prayerfully trying to navigate these uncertain times and long with many of you to join together again "in Person" for worship among many other ministries and opportunities. We recognize that there a wide spectrum of how people are dealing with this pandemic and the and desire to create a safe and welcoming atmosphere for our people. Would you join us in prayer as we seek the Lords wisdom and counsel and learn from one another? As we move toward re-opening, we will be entering a new world filled with challenges but also filled with opportunity to impact our community for Jesus. Now more than ever our mission rings loud, We, here at SCN, SERVE CHRIST NOW!

If you have any questions or concerns, as always, we encourage you to reach out directly to us.

Humbly serving,

PASTOR Bill, SCN STAFF, & Church Leadership TEAM