



## Valley Mills Christian Church Re-Entering the Church Building Guidelines and Expectations

Rev. July 17, 2020

The Staff and Elders of Valley Mills Christian Church have been working on plans towards **re-entering** our church building! In doing so, we will set up the necessary best practices that allow us to effectively continue to serve and care for ALL the people in our church—just like we always have.

The information below is what the Staff and Elders have come together in agreement upon for **re-entering** the church building at this time. We will continue to update the congregation concerning the future of our services, ministries, and events, and will be re-evaluating each week as to what our next steps are and when to implement them. We are doing our very best to make sure that our guests and members remain safe, but at the same time allow for a time of meaningful worship together.

In-person corporate worship at the church building resumed on **Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> with our normal service times of 9:00AM and 10:45AM.** We've highlighted below some expectations and guidelines for re-entering the church building. (\*Please note that these recommendations and guidelines are subject to change.)

### **Expectations of our Members and Guests\*:**

- **Feeling ill?** If you are feeling ill or are showing ANY signs or symptoms of sickness PLEASE stay home.
- **Have a fever?** If you have a fever of 99.9 or higher, please stay home.
- **Safe distancing** - Continue to respect the safe distancing guidelines of 6 feet from those not in your family and refrain from handshaking or physical contact with those outside of your family. *Smiles, waves and "hello's" are encouraged!*
- **Face masks** - To be in compliance with the Marion County Public Health Order issued on July 2nd by the City of Indianapolis and Mayor Joe Hogsett, beginning July 9th, all indoor gatherings, facility usage, and worship services at Valley Mills Christian Church will require face coverings when attending in-person services and on-campus activities (age 2 and older). Face coverings are required for outdoor events in situations where adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet is not possible. We know these are challenging, and somewhat confusing times, but to be in compliance with community standards, and to help mitigate the spread of the virus, we feel these changes are necessary.
- **Bibles and pens** – If you should use one of the Bibles or pens provided in the seats, please leave them in the marked box in the rear of the Worship Center as you exit.
- **Attendance - Let us know you attended!** - There will be two options for you to let us know if you attended. In lieu of providing printed Connection Cards, we ask that you please choose **one** of the following options:
  - **Option #1- IN-PERSON Attendance Station:** Please check in as you enter the building (or before you leave) at one of our **"no-contact" Attendance Stations** located in the foyers. We will capture the attendance of each family member either on an iPad/laptop or with a printed checklist. Church volunteers will enter or check off your name so there will not be any contact with the devices.
  - **Option #2- ONLINE Connection Card:** Our Online Connection Card form is still available on the home page of our church website at [www.valleymillsc.org](http://www.valleymillsc.org), in your

weekly enewsletter, and on the Facebook video post in the description section. If you viewed the service online via a device (or if you attended in-person) please fill out the Online Connection Card **by 10AM Monday morning**.

**Attendance recording is extremely important during this time for a**

**couple of reasons:** **1)** It enables us to have a record of those in attendance should the need arise for us to contact you with information that an attendee has tested positive for the coronavirus or is self-isolating due to the virus (confidentially, no names will be shared); and **2)** Allows us to stay connected with you through email, etc. and continue our shepherding efforts with you.

**Guidelines for all Children (Valley Kids): (Birth thru Grade 6)\***

- Valley Kids Ministries (Birth - Grade 6) has resumed meeting on Sunday mornings **during the 10:45 am service only effective July 12, 2020**. We have all volunteers trained and a safety plan and new policies in place. An email was sent to all parents from Children's Minister Tanya Henthorn on these updated policies and procedures. (See details below).

**CHECK IN:**

- A health screening will be done just before entering the Kid Zone area. Temperatures will be checked of each volunteer, child, and one adult dropping off the child over the age of 18. Temps need to be below 99.9. Please keep your family home if anyone has been sick. We would love to have you when everyone is healthy!
- Touchless Check-In will be available. Our Check-In Volunteers will be checking families in as you arrive.

**CLASS TIME:**

- All Volunteers and children ages 2 and above will need to wear a mask.
- We have added extra tables to allow kids to stretch out during table activities.
- We will be offering hand sanitizer between activities.
- Kids will be distanced in Large Group as much as possible.
- We will do our best to limit sharing and will wipe down toys, surfaces, and clean hands often.
- We will not be serving food, so please feed children before they arrive.
- Please have your child leave their toys at home.

**DISMISSAL:**

- We ask that the same family member who dropped off the child pick up the child. We are asking that only one family member over the age of 18 drop off and pick up children.

***\*Please note that these notes and guidelines are subject to change.***

- Baby changing stations are available in the restrooms in the Worship Center hallway.
- You can check the “Valley Mills Christian Church Children’s Ministry” Facebook Group for updates and news on summer programming and events as it becomes available. Please contact Children’s Minister Tanya Henthorn at [tanyahenthorn@valleymillsc.org](mailto:tanyahenthorn@valleymillsc.org) with any questions.

## **Guidelines for Student Ministry: (Grades 7-12)\***

- Teens in Grades 7-12 can attend and sit with their families at either Sunday morning service.
- Our Student Ministry Sunday Night Programming (*The Peak*) has resumed and is held on Sunday Nights from 6-8PM. Watch for additional information about Sunday Nights from Student Minister Craig Rice.
- You can check the “*Valley Mills Student Ministry*” Facebook Page for updates and news on summer events! Please contact Student Minister Craig Rice at [craigrice@valleymillscc.org](mailto:craigrice@valleymillscc.org) with any questions.

## **FAQs for RE-ENTERING the church building on Sundays at Valley Mills Christian Church\***

### **Where do I enter the building?**

We will have both main doors open to the building (Family Life Center and Worship Center doors). The exterior as well as the interior doors will be propped open to avoid contact with the door handles.

### **How will I be greeted?**

To ensure the safety of all those entering the building, our door greeters will not be offering handshakes, but will welcome you with a warm, friendly smile and “hello!”

### **Will there be alternate seating configurations as well as additional locations to view the service?**

Yes to both! We have re-configured the seating arrangement in the Worship Center allowing for more space between rows and spacing between family units. (Family units are encouraged to sit together and do not have to sit 6 feet apart.)

We will also broadcast both services on a screen in the Family Life Center (gym). You may pick up a chair just inside the doors and place them where you would like inside this room to view the service. Families with small children who choose to view the service in the Family Life Center are encouraged to bring quiet items to keep the little ones busy as well as blankets for the children to sit on if you would like.

### **Will we continue to offer online worship services?**

Yes! We will resume our practice of live streaming our services on **Facebook** at both the 9:00am and 10:45am services. (Facebook.com/Valleymillscc). We will also live stream both services on our church **YouTube channel** at both 9:00 and 10:45AM. In addition, recorded versions of these services will be uploaded to our website at [valleymillscc.org](http://valleymillscc.org) later in the week under the Media tab.

### **Will hand sanitizers/disinfectants be available?**

Yes! We will offer several hand sanitizing stations throughout the foyers and sanitizing wipes will be available in high-use areas.

**Will we get a Sunday Bulletin?**

No, we are suspending bulletins at this time. Watch for announcements about events and other information on the digital monitors in the foyers and prior to each service on the screen in the Worship Center. In addition, please continue to find church announcements in your weekly enewsletter as well as our social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram). Contact Administrative Coordinator Tanya Gonterman at [tanyagonterman@valleymillsc.org](mailto:tanyagonterman@valleymillsc.org) or at 317-856-3766 if you would like to receive the weekly enewsletter or have any questions.

**What will communion look like?**

Communion time will be at the closing of each service. The elements will be offered at tables in various locations in the Worship Center (near the front and on the sides of the room). Please exit the Worship Center after you take your communion.

We will be double cupping our communion so the bread is on the bottom and juice will be on top. The cups will not be in the trays but will be set individually on the tables instead with extra spacing between them.

**What will offering look like?**

You may drop off your tithes and offerings at the **end** of each service in the buckets provided near each door as you exit the Worship Center. Online giving is still available and encouraged.

**Will coffee and refreshments/snacks be offered at the Coffee Shop?**

We are suspending coffee and refreshments/snacks being served from the Coffee Shop until further notice. We will provide water bottles on a table in the Coffee Shop area.

**Other safety precautions in place:**

- **Restrooms** – At this time, we ask that you please use only the restrooms located in the Worship Center hallway and in the Family Life Center (gym).
- **Water fountains** will not be accessible during this time. We will have water bottles available in the Coffee Shop area.

*\* Please note that these recommendations and guidelines are subject to change.*

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [info@valleymillsc.org](mailto:info@valleymillsc.org) or call us in the church office at 317-856-3766.

***The Staff and Elders of Valley Mills Christian Church***

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