

REVISED: April 24, 2020 to better coincide with Governor Cooper's North Carolina Phase 3 Plan issued April 23, 2020 (Cooper's plan is in Blue Ink).

Red ink is revisions made from original.

Black ink is original thoughts.

Here are some thoughts that I have had on a possible plan for re-opening.

My personal feelings are that we should establish PHASES for returning.

PHASE I: (2-3 weeks)

PHASE 1: possibly beginning May 8

Stay at home order remains in place. People can leave home for commercial activity.

Those retailers and services will need to implement social distancing, cleaning and other protocols.

Gatherings limited to no more than 10 people.

Parks can open subject to gathering limits

Face covering recommended in public

Restrictions remain in place for nursing homes and other congregate living settings

Encourage continued teleworking

On-line services continue with a limit of 10 people for the next 2-3 weeks.

Possible dates for lifting Phase 1 would be:

May 24

May 31

June 7?

Encourage small groups of not more than 10 people to meet in homes for Bible Study and fellowship **at the discretion of the host home** on a particular day throughout the week. Possibly encourage Sunday night meetings since we do not broadcast on Sunday night.

Perhaps there is a study that we could ALL do together? Or a book we could all read together? Then, testimony of or a summary of some of those doing the study could be recorded and presented on our Sunday broadcast?

I would love to see us include different elements in our Sunday morning and Wednesday night broadcasted services: Testimony (this can be pre-recorded, even at home and sent to our sound techs. They could then add it to Easy Worship).

More music by individuals and groups instead of "Congregational singing"

Video music pieces or Skit Guys pieces that go with the messages, of course

*could we possibly begin to add some other elements to the Wednesday night worship, such as a children's time or could Richard and I alternate with something to help???

Suggestions: (all of these could be pre-recorded)

Testimonies

Object Lessons

Children Reading Scripture (I would LOVE to have them do this)

Youth Reading Scripture

MEANWHILE: We know now that we will still be doing online only through Mother's Day. We should make a plan for this to be a special broadcast.

PHASE 2: duration 4-6 weeks

Possible dates for the beginning of Phase 2:

May 24?

May 31?

June 7?

Lift stay at home order with strong encouragement for vulnerable populations to continue staying at home
Allow limited opening of restaurants, bars and other businesses that can follow strict safety protocols (reduced capacity)
Allow gathering at houses of worship and entertainment venues at reduced capacity (no specifics have been given at this point).

Increase in number of people allowed at gatherings (could this possibly increase to 50??? 25?)

Open public playgrounds

Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and congregant care settings

Sunday morning worship only with 2 services, one taking place in the family life center and one taking place in the sanctuary (at different times) with a limit of 50 people per service by RSVP. (depending, of course on numbers given by the governor)

By having the services in two different buildings this would be a way to avoid contamination and prevent the need for cleaning "between" services. One service could begin at 9:30 and the second service could begin at 11:00.

***OPTIONS:**

Have a Saturday Senior Service.

ONLY Senior adults would come to this service. Those who have concerns about catching the virus from younger people who have been out and about might feel more comfortable coming to a service especially for them while still following all the guidelines of social distancing.

**Of course, this would require more cleaning afterward and it would require the sound crew to be present on Saturday which might be a hardship for them???

(Benefits of this: Music could be geared toward Seniors in this service and more contemporary music could be implemented in the other services). A group of choir members could be gathered together to serve as a praise team during this service. THIS SERVICE WOULD NOT BE BROADCASTED LIVE unless you just wanted to, so it would be a bit more relaxed.

No Sunday night service during Phase 2. (This gives time for cleaning and sanitizing).

Wednesday night service would be one service and limited to 50 people (or the number specified by the state) with NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING offered during this time. Parents can bring their children WITH them to the Wednesday service if desired.

PHASE 3:

Lessen restrictions for vulnerable populations with encouragement to continue practicing physical distancing

Allow increased capacity at restaurants, bars, other businesses, houses of worship and entertainment venues
Further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings

continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and congregant care settings

Possible dates for the beginning of Phase 3:

June 21 (Father's Day) – July 5

June 28 – July 12

July 5 – July 19

"Mixed" Sunday School classes could begin to meet in limited rooms, hosting no more than 100 people total in the building. **(depending on numbers to be given by the governor?)**

Possible classes for hosting:

1. Fellowship hall. Remove tables, spread chairs out around the room with some in the center. Limit number in the room to 30.
2. Adam Furr's class. Remove Tables and spread chairs around the wall with space between chairs. Limit number of people in this room to 20.
3. Youth Class room
Limit the number of people in this room to 20.
4. Children's Large Group room could be utilized as a classroom in the same manner by bringing in chairs. Limit the number of people in this room to 15?
5. Choir Room could be used with a limit of 15 or 20 people.

This plan would provide for 100 people to attend Sunday School.

Return to ONE WORSHIP SERVICE, meeting in the FLC so that chairs can be spread out...

OR provide TWO simultaneous worship services, one led by Pastor David and one led by Pastor Richard with a limit of 50 per service...OR via "satellite" transmission.

Sunday night services would resume with a limit of 50 people in the sanctuary. *Sanitizing would be necessary if services are dual and one is held in the sanctuary.

Children's Sunday night class would resume, meeting **in the FLC** with strict distancing and sanitizing protocol.

Preschool children would meet in a specified location, preferably one without so many toys and surfaces to clean. (They could possibly meet in the 2 year old classroom or they could move to one of the older children's classrooms).

Sunday night family fellowship could resume.

Wednesday night services would continue with a limited number of people 50-100, meeting in the FLC or sanctuary, but still no children's programming offered on Wednesday night.

PHASE 4: (no length of time was given for the Governor's Phase 3 to be in place. I think we MUST come to terms with the fact that gatherings in churches may be limited for a LONG, LONG time and deal accordingly.

However, we could plan for 4 – 6 weeks to begin our Phase 4 which still has many limits, but also has many openings. All of this, of course, depends on the regulations of the state.

For instance:

July 19 (4 weeks) to August 2 (6 weeks)

July 26 (4 weeks) to August 9 (6 weeks)

August 2 (4 weeks) to August 16 (6 weeks)

Begin to implement Sunday School in individual classes again with strict social distancing and limits in classroom numbers. Not sure how to determine this, but, If classes are too full, there should be those who would be willing to go to another class for the time being. (COMMUNICATION with teachers would be KEY to keeping the numbers in classrooms minimized).

Sunday Morning worship would continue to be two simultaneous worship services with an increased capacity in each service as allowed by the state.

Children's Sunday School would resume meeting with strict protocol for sanitizing and most likely a change in classrooms for our youngest Sunday School class AND Children's Church.

RESUMING CHILDREN'S CHURCH will largely depend on the number of workers available. BECAUSE many of our workers are older, it may not be possible to have Children's Church each week IF AT ALL.

Sunday Night worship would continue with an increased capacity depending on the allowance given by the state. Children's Sunday night class would continue under the same protocol as Phase 3, including the preschool classes.

Wednesday night Children's Classes would RESUME MEETING as long as all things are well and the virus seems stabilized.

Possible start up dates for Wednesday night classes are:

July 22 (4 weeks) -August 5 (6 weeks)

July 29 (4 weeks) – August 12 (6 weeks)

August 5 (4 weeks) – August 19 (6 weeks)

Wednesday night PRESCHOOL Children's Classes would RESUME, most likely in a different room than they normally meet due to the amount of toys present in the room.

Choir Practice could resume, perhaps with a limited number of people. (Half of the normal capacity of the choir?) In the mean time, smaller groups could practice together and sing together.