



GUIDELINES FOR GCC SUNDAY GATHERINGS

Below, we highlight areas important for consideration and specific requests the elders are making of those attending GCC Sunday services. Regardless of your personal beliefs about COVID-19, the elders are responsible for making the best decisions they can to lead the church with prudence, and we ask you to remember that not all brothers and sisters in Christ are at the same place of comfort or exercise the same practice. This is a great opportunity for us to “consider others as more important than ourselves” (Philippians 2).

1. *Livestream the service if you or someone in your family shows signs of sickness* (e.g., fever, loss of taste/smell, vomiting, etc).
2. *Livestream the service if you or one in your family has been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19.* If you do test positive, follow CDC guidelines.
3. ***The Grace Life room will be a mask-only room:*** This means that everyone who is in the room needs to wear a mask the entire time they are in the room. This is an accommodation we can make for those who may be higher risk. The side doors to the Grace Life room will be unlocked, and people can enter and exit through them if they desire. The Grace Life room will be a mask only room beginning **Sunday, January 31**. The youth room, however, will be an additional overflow room where masks are recommended but not required (just like the main auditorium).
4. *Notify the appropriate people if you contract COVID-19:* If you have attended a service and believe, in retrospect, you may have had COVID-19 while at GCC, we ask that you notify everyone with whom you interacted and that you notify one of the elders. You can email the elders at gcchsv@gmail.com.
5. *Honor physical distancing to the extent possible:* We recognize Sundays allow us to see others and have conversations of spiritual benefit. We ask everyone to make efforts to physically distance to the extent possible while interacting with others while in the building.
6. *Do not leave your children unattended:* We are thankful children of all ages are attending the corporate service, and we welcome them. It is easy, however, to become forgetful about our children while in conversation with others. We ask all parents to keep their children with them at all times (before and after the service). Children should never be unattended whether inside or outside, and they should not run around the auditorium or in the hallways. If your children need more space, we welcome you to transition your conversation outside.

7. *We ask that you don't crowd the foyer:* This does not mean no one should have conversations in the foyer, but we want to avoid the foyer becoming overcrowded, so we ask you to be mindful of this.
8. *We strongly encourage masks to be worn when entering/exiting the building and while talking to others:* We believe this is appropriate for a number of reasons. First, many medical professionals indicate there is a health benefit in wearing them. Second, we have people attending our services who could be significantly impacted if they were to contract COVID-19, and we feel wearing masks is a small way to show consideration to them. Third, a larger corporate gathering can have greater health implications upon the church, families, and the community than other settings. Fourth, wearing a mask, regardless of your personal belief as to its efficacy, is a way we can show thoughtfulness toward others who may have a different opinion. We recognize some in our church have physical conditions where using a mask would be unwise. We don't encourage mask wearing in such circumstances. Additionally, we recognize it may be difficult for children of certain ages to wear masks. We leave such decisions to the wisdom of parents.
9. *You need to make the best decision for you and your family:* COVID-19 is a virus, and there is still much not understood about it. Consequently, we anticipate that it will continue to be spread, and we cannot ensure a lack of contraction while at GCC. Measures that would ensure a lack of contraction would make our services unfeasible, and we think it is important for the local church to gather. These are difficult decisions, and we want those in our congregation to feel comfortable doing what they feel is best for themselves and their family. We will continue to stream the service on the website and YouTube for those still uncomfortable attending or for families concerned about children sitting through the full service.
10. *Our goal is to conclude all services within 1hr 10 minutes:* Abiding by this can be difficult, particularly when we have occasional elements in our service (e.g., communion, missions presentation, etc). However, we recognize the difficulty presented by extended services in our current climate.
11. *We have hand sanitizer readily accessible:* Hand sanitizer stations will continue to be placed throughout the building. Disinfectant wipes are located in the bathrooms.
12. *There is currently no nursery:* There will be no nursery and child-care during the morning service. The infant nursery is open for nursing mothers. Changing stations are located in all four bathrooms. The elders are actively thinking through childcare as it relates to the church. We recognize that not having it provides difficulties, and we plan to communicate our plans regarding nursery in the near future.
13. *You have three primary options for financial giving:* You can continue to give offerings via ACH bank withdrawal, place cash or checks in the designated offering box outside of the auditorium, or mail checks to the GCC office.