

Faro Church,

We hope this email finds you well and safe. As you may have heard, on Monday this week, the Governor of California came out with guidelines for churches to resume holding modified in-person services while delegating approval to local counties. Yesterday we received word that the OC Supervisors deemed churches as essential with restrictions.

Consequently, we are happy to announce that we have officially scheduled “The Regathering of Faro Church” for Sunday, June 7th! This is something we have been anxiously longing and waiting for! We are refraining from calling it a “reopening,” as we know, the church was never closed, and our congregation never left. Our church has never stopped, and we are together and united like never before!

Our church will begin to regather in three separate services at 9 am, 11 am, and 12:30 pm. These services will also be streamed live online and will be our new church service times moving forward. There will no longer be a 6 pm service.

At least for June, all services will be bilingual to allow cohabiting families to enjoy the services together and due to capacity guidelines explained below. However, sometime shortly, when capacity guidelines are loosened, we anticipate having a 9 am bilingual service, 11 am Spanish service and a 12:30 pm English service. Again, these would be our new service times moving forward, even after guidelines are entirely lifted.

We want to let you know, that initially church is going to look a bit different than it did before COVID-19. California will allow churches and places of worship to reopen at 25% capacity or with a limit of 100 people (whichever is lower). Though we understand it can be inconvenient, we will be taking reservations for each of our services due to the capacity guidelines. When you sign up, we will reserve your particular spot like in a movie theater. Be on the look-out for the announcement to RSVP on our social media platforms. If our three services are filled to capacity, we will open a temporary 2 pm service until restrictions are lifted.

Also, for at least the month of June, there will be no in-person Children’s or Nursery classes of any kind. However, our Sunday children’s zoom meetings will continue to be available throughout the month. Children are welcome to attend our in-person meetings, but they will have to sit with their family for its entirety.

In keeping with our Faro Church’s regathering principles, we are taking the necessary steps to meet the required state guidelines. We want to make sure we are keeping our church and community safe and healthy. Although there are many guidelines we must and will follow, we want to highlight the most important and relevant for your review:

- We will abide by CDC-recommended six-foot physical distancing.
- For seating in rows, two chairs will be used in-between individuals or cohabiting households to facilitate at least six (6) feet distancing. Also, we will use only every other row to facilitate at least six (6) feet distancing between individuals or cohabiting households.
- Staff, volunteers, and congregants are strongly recommended to wear face masks in the vicinity of others. The only exception would be the singers and preachers while they are performing their tasks.
- High traffic areas, like chairs and lobbies, will be disinfected before and after every service. We will also have hand sanitizer at each entrance and throughout the facility.
- Unfortunately, we cannot have any point-of-contact amenities of any kind (i.e., Coffee, brochures, etc.). Offering baskets will be available throughout the building’s entrance and exit, and digital giving is preferred.
- We must also limit or discontinue physical actions such as handshakes, hugging, kissing, etc.
- Sadly, we must also encourage people over the age of 65, those who have pre-existing conditions, and people who are sick to stay home and watch our online services.

- Congregants should screen themselves at home before attending church. They must check their temperature and other symptoms, and only attend if they are healthy.
- Doors will be left open to encourage fresh air to flow inside. We will have one-way traffic for individuals to enter and exit the building.

All these guidelines will be carefully evaluated each week, and we will let you know of any changes if necessary. Our people, communities, and cities will be watching how we adhere to what we are being asked to do, so it gives us a great chance to have the utmost integrity and walk according to wisdom. We are still here to help with any need you may have at this time. Just let us know!

See you on June 7th!

Faro Church
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