

Welcome Back to PEPC
Plan for Re-Opening Public Worship
Revised May 15, 2020
(Covid-19 Response)



OVERVIEW

In accordance with local, state, and national guidelines, Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church will move to re-open its public gatherings for worship in a four-phased approach. This approach will be subject to the guidelines set forth by the Colorado State Governor's Office and the local Tri County Health Department. The initiation of each phase will be determined by data instead of dates by PEPC Session. In addition, (and most importantly) this three-phased approach will adhere to the following theological principles set forth by God's Word.

1. Love God, Love Neighbor –
 - a. We will do our best to provide worship in a safe regard, within reason, in accordance with the Lord's call to "Love your neighbor as yourself" in Mark 12:31, John 13:34-35, and Romans 12:10. We desire to be a witness of compassion to the Parker Community in whatever we do.
2. A Commitment to Meeting Together –
 - a. Whatever form it takes, we remain committed to spurring one another on towards Christ. We will not neglect our meeting together as set forth in Hebrews 10:25 and Acts 2:42.
3. Protection of the Vulnerable –
 - a. While we believe in the importance of every individual taking ownership of their own health, we also recognize the importance of doing all we can to care for the vulnerable in our midst. See Psalm 68 for more.

In all that we do, we echo the prayer of 3 John 1:2...

-“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.”

PHASE ONE

Tri-County Health guidance under Phase One:

Special care should be taken in social interactions involving those people **MOST VULNERABLE** to serious complications of COVID-19 (those > 65 or with underlying illnesses). Tri-County Health recommends those most vulnerable continue to stay home.

SMALL GROUP gatherings are permitted as long as the gatherings are with 10 people or fewer and physical distancing (6 feet apart) is observed. More than one limited gathering may occur in a building if they are in separate rooms (each with 4 walls and a door) and if physical distancing is observed and the gatherings are of 10 or fewer people in each room – other Public Health Order guidance must also be followed. Outdoor space is preferable for gathering with appropriate physical distancing and separation. Continuation of electronic platforms for services, Bible studies, small groups, meetings, etc. is encouraged.

LARGE VENUES are closed to gathering of more than 10 people

Phase One PEPC Approach:

Church Offices/Staff – Church office will be open normal hours. Staff will continue to telework except for essential employees. Face Coverings will be required of all staff sharing the same space. ELC remains in Childcare Camp format. Staff wellness checks are required. Staff meetings will take place in person with a teleconference option available.

Sunday Morning Worship – PEPC will not hold public, in-person, worship services during this first phase. However, worship services will be available through live streaming from the worship center. Only scheduled service individuals will attend.

Pastoral Care—available via teleconferencing or in person. Please call the office to schedule.

Children’s Ministry and Student Ministries –

- Children’s Ministry materials will be provided online.
- Student Ministry activity and Youth Group will take place via electronic media.
- Small group interactions are available, mostly in outdoor locations, always maintaining 10 or less people in a group with physical distancing.

Community Life (Men’s, Women’s, Young Adults, Small Groups)– All gatherings of 10 people or less will be allowed to meet in appropriate space, maintaining physical distancing of six (6) feet separation and face covering recommended. Our outdoor campus is encouraged as a resource for meeting with appropriate separation from other groups. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chair.

Sharing of food or beverages is not appropriate and strongly discouraged at these gatherings. An option for teleconferencing should be considered for those electing to remain home.

**All areas will be required to be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after each meeting use. Please encourage all attendees to wash hands frequently. Face coverings are requested for all attendees.

PHASE TWO

Tri-County Health guidance *anticipated* under Phase Two:

Special care should be taken in social interactions involving those people **MOST VULNERABLE** to serious complications of COVID-19 (those > 65 or with underlying illnesses). Tri-County Health recommends those most vulnerable continue to stay home.

GATHERINGS are permitted where appropriate physical distancing (6 feet apart) is observed. All individuals should maximize physical distance from others.

LARGE VENUES (places of worship) can operate under physical distancing protocols.

Phase Two PEPC Approach:

Church Offices/Staff – Church office will be open normal hours. Staff may telework from home as necessary. Face Coverings will be required of all staff sharing the same space. When physical meetings are necessary, social distancing guidelines of six (6) feet will be implemented. Staff meetings will be in person with face covering. Staff wellness checks are required. Teleconferencing options will remain available.

Sunday Morning Worship – Gathered worship services on the hillside will begin in June and continue through July 5th. Open to all attendees, while still encouraging those that are vulnerable to remain sheltered in place and participate through live streamed service.

- a. Face coverings are encouraged for all attendees and required for volunteers and staff.
- b. Family units will be permitted to sit together. Otherwise, six (6) feet distancing will be required.
- c. Maintain appropriate spacing in the parking and gathering areas as people enter and leave.
- d. Offering will be encouraged online or placed in a designated location.
- e. In the case of inclement weather, services will be online only with a two (2) hour notice by email, social media, and PEPC app.
- f. Fellowship time before and after the service must maintain physical distancing.

Children's and Student Ministry –

- Children's Ministry materials will be provided online.
- Student Ministry activity will be permitted and encouraged to take place outside with social distancing required. Youth Group will continue through teleconference or with required physical distancing.

Community Life (Men's, Women's, Young Adults, Small Groups) - Gatherings within current Tri-County guidelines will be allowed on campus, maintaining appropriate physical distancing.

Sharing of food or beverages is not appropriate and strongly discouraged at these gatherings. An option for teleconferencing should be considered for those electing to remain home.

PHASE Three

Tri-County Health guidance *anticipated* under Phase Three:

Special care should be taken in social interactions involving those people **MOST VULNERABLE**. Those who are most vulnerable should practice physical distancing and minimize exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical.

LOW-RISK POPULATIONS should consider minimizing time spent in crowded environments.

All GATHERINGS should maximize physical distance from others. Social gatherings where appropriate distancing may not be practical, should be avoided unless precautionary measures are observed.

LARGE VENUES (places of worship) can operate under moderate physical distancing protocols.

Phase Three PEPC Approach:

Church Offices/Staff – Staff will be encouraged to office from the building but will also be allowed to telework from home as necessary. Offices will open to the public for normal hours and all meetings would be allowed. When physical meetings are necessary, social distancing guidelines of six (6) feet will be implemented. Staff meetings will take place in person with a teleconferencing option as needed. Staff and visitors will be encouraged to use face coverings and hand sanitizer.

Sunday Morning Worship – regular service times (8:45 & 10:30) in person with live streaming available

- a. PEPC will begin regular scheduled indoor worship via two services with multiple on campus sites available as needed to meet the physical distancing guidelines.
- b. Nursery care and Sunday School will be available.
- c. Communion would be served by individually packaged cup and bread.
- d. Greeters would continue to wear face coverings and PPE
- e. Touchless hand sanitizer will remain available
- f. Bulletins would be handed out.
- g. Offering would be encouraged online or dropped in a box at the back of worship.
- h. Ongoing sanitization will be implemented during gatherings. Public areas will be cleaned and sanitized between services.

Children's Ministry and Youth Group –

- Children's Ministry programming will resume gathering on Sunday mornings.
- Youth Group would be permitted and encouraged to take place outside with appropriate social distancing. Sharing of food or beverages is not appropriate and strongly discouraged at these gatherings. Small group activities will continue.

Community Life (Men's, Women's, Young Adults, Small Groups)- Gatherings within current Tri-County guidelines will be allowed on campus, with appropriate physical distancing. Sharing of food or beverages is not appropriate and strongly discouraged at these gatherings. An option for teleconferencing should be considered for those electing to remain home.

PHASE FOUR

Phase Four PEPC Approach:

Church Offices/Staff – Staff will resume normal office use unless otherwise restricted. Social distancing guidelines of six (6) feet will continue to be encouraged. Staff meetings will take place in person with teleconferencing available as necessary.

Sunday Morning Worship – Worship services would continue indoors with live streaming available:

1. 8:45 am and 10:30
 - a. Family units permitted to sit together. Appropriate social distancing encouraged. Overflow for those particularly vulnerable would be maintained with face covering required.
 - b. Volunteers would continue to wear face coverings and gloves as appropriate
 - c. Touchless hand sanitizer will remain available
 - d. Bulletins will be handed out.
 - e. Offering will be encouraged online or dropped in a box at the back of worship.
 - f. Coffee will be handed out by servers with gloves/face coverings.
 - g. Communion will be served by individual cup and bread.
 - h. Gathering will be permitted (encouraged) after worship.

Children's and Student Ministries –

- Nursery and Sunday School would also occur indoors.
- Youth Group would be permitted and encouraged to take place outdoors/indoors.

Community Life (Men's, Women's, Young Adults, Small Groups) – All gatherings would be permitted, with encouragement to adhere to physical distance guidelines. Strict sanitary guidelines would be followed for and food and drink service.