



NEW SONG Assembly

REOPENING GUIDELINES

Let all that you do be done with love.

1 Corinthians 16:14 (NKJV)

STAGE 1 REOPENING: LEGAL GUIDELINES

NATIONAL GUIDELINES: STAGE 1 | www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#guidelines

Large venues (e.g., places of worship) can operate under strict physical distancing protocols. All vulnerable individuals should continue to shelter in place.

CONNECTICUT GUIDELINES: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>

Religious, spiritual, and worship gatherings of more than 50 are prohibited. This remains in effect until May 20, unless otherwise modified.

As a gathering of under 50 persons, New Song Assembly is legally permitted to operate under strict physical distancing protocols.

CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Romans 13:1

To honor our local and national leadership, protect the vulnerable, and demonstrate love for our community, as a church we will:

PROMOTE HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES

- Provide supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer, tissues, and a limited supply of face masks and disposable gloves
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces before services

PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Limit the size of gatherings to under 50
- Provide a video streaming option so that vulnerable individuals may participate without physical attendance
- Limit seating to every third pew; families and household units are requested to sit together
- Suspend all groups and church functions apart from Sunday morning services and Tuesday Prayer. Children's Ministry, Ladies' Fellowship, Sunday School, and Healing Rooms USA are suspended until further notice
- Suspend greeting time during the service, fellowship time following the service, and coffee and snack time until further notice
- Utilize only the sanctuary entrance and the upstairs of the church to minimize the need for disinfection
- Post signage of church protocols

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2

As a church family navigating through unprecedented circumstances, we have the opportunity to model love and compassion toward one another and in our community. May we:

- **Recognize that there is a wide array of differing opinions about how to respond to COVID-19. Choose love over proving a point or being right.** *"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another"* (Romans 12:10).
- **Respect the personal convictions of our brothers and sisters in Christ** (for example, not insisting on a handshake or hug, or not belittling the decision to wear a face mask). *"Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being"* (1 Cor. 10:24).
- **In that currently, no government regulation is advocating sinful behavior or singling out Christian communities, respectfully honor the regulations put in place by our government leaders.** (1 Peter 2:13-17, Titus 3:1-2)
- **Be gracious in the midst of the limitations and frustrations of challenging circumstances. Assume the best of each other; extend kindness, mercy, and patience toward those in our church and community. We are in this together.** *"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you"* (Eph. 4:32). *"Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one"* (Col. 4:5-6).
- **Seek to glorify God with what we share in our meetings and in our interactions in person and online. May everything we say and do be edifying and point to Jesus, "that in all things He may have the preeminence."** (Col. 1:18) *"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"* (1 Cor. 10:31; Philippians 4:8).
- **Seek to allow the Lord to work in our hearts and lives in this season, to conform us into the image of Jesus** (Romans 8:28-29)

For further study: 1 Corinthians 8, 1 Corinthians 10:23-33, 1 Corinthians 13, Galatians 5:22-23

PRAYER POINTS

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:16

Please join us in prayer:

- **That we as a church body will grow in unity and love**
"That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me" (John 17:21).
"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).
- **For those affected by COVID-19:** people who have lost jobs, people who tested positive, those most vulnerable to the virus, those financially impacted, those mourning the loss of loved ones
"...weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15).
- **For those responding to COVID-19:** health care workers, scientists and researchers, essential workers
- **For our community:** local business owners, the hurting, homeless, and hopeless; for those far from God to come close and know Christ
- **For our local, state, and national leaders:** for godly wisdom in making difficult decisions
"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" (1 Tim. 2:1-3).
- **For the church of Jesus Christ:** for pastors as they lead, that churches will be ready to minister the compassion, love, and hope of Jesus Christ to our families and communities, and *"that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish"* (Eph. 5:25b-27).

These guidelines are accurate as of 05/10/2020. Any amendments or changes will be posted at www.newsongag.com.