

PelhamRoadNOW Gatherings

Covenant of Guidelines and Expectations

We are sincerely grateful for the ways our community has adapted and developed in this season of change. Our reach has expanded deeply into the community and our connections have expanded as we have engaged in digital ministry, nurtured relationships, shared in prayer and extended support to others. Thank you, with heartfelt appreciation, for continuing to serve alongside us in all these ways and for your intentional support of our staff.

We are beyond excited to start gathering in person for WorshipNOW gatherings. As we prepare for this wonderful reunion, we are mindful that there will also be many new practices and different ways of being the church. We would like to share the following information as a way of unifying our expectations for this next phase of PelhamRoadNOW.

1. There are many voices, opinions and matters to be taken into consideration as we think of what it looks like to gather in person.
2. Christian faith instructs us to be considerate of our neighbor, to go out of our way to care for each other, and to make sacrifices for the sake of the “least among us”. Every step taken will be guided by what is best for the entire community. What the individual most needs or wants is for the fellow church family to experience the love and grace of Jesus our Lord.
3. While PelhamRoadNOW makes it possible for some to come to the church’s facilities, we recognize that attendance will be understood in a new way. We are not EXPECTING people to attend, instead, creating opportunities to gather for those who feel comfortable. We respect all who feel most comfortable staying home.
4. We strongly encourage individuals who are immune-compromised or have other health risk factors to stay at home. And we ask that those with any symptoms related to COVID19 or anyone who has come into proximity with people who have symptoms or diagnosis to also stay at home.
5. Alongside in-person opportunities, we will continue to provide digital ministry through online worship, daily devotions, musical offerings and other opportunities as possible via Facebook, pelhamroad.org and YouTube.
6. Starting September 20 – those who wish to gather for WorshipNOW will be able to do so at either 9:00am, 10:00am or 11:00am.
7. As we establish new practices, navigate our way, and maintain good order, we will limit our in person gatherings to the number of people we can accommodate in the sanctuary while maintaining physical distancing (50).
8. In order to respect the sanctuary capacity with physical distancing, we will have an online sign up sheet for each service and strongly request all individuals/families to sign up. Please sign up each person in your family who will be attending so we can have an accurate count. We will sit by household unit, with measured distance between each unit.
9. There are no “rules,” but we can covenant with each other to address the diversity of opinion among us and the variety of practices which make each comfortable. These will change, with time and future discussion. Those unable to agree to the covenants are encouraged to speak to a staff member. Each individual opinion will be honored, but if one cannot agree to the covenant, they should delay gathering until the points in our agreed upon covenant are acceptable to them.
10. Each WorshipNOW gathering will have the following
 - a. A NURSE will conduct temperature checks at the door.
 - b. A HOST will greet folks at the door, welcome them, direct them to a hand sanitizing station, and remind them of the covenant to one another
 - c. An USHER will guide folks to their seats and answer any questions
 - d. A CLEANING SERVER will assist after gatherings to clean the space for the next group.
11. We will continue evaluating information as it becomes available and making considerations for how to respond, from suspending in person options if necessary to considering additional in person opportunities as possible.

Covenant from the Church to the Community

1. The church will take the following risk management precautions to prepare gathering areas before arrival (including but not limited to):
 - a. professional cleaning after closing hours for the child development center
 - b. Physical distanced spacing marked at tables or pews
 - c. directional signs
 - d. doors propped open
 - e. cleaning frequently touched surfaces between gatherings
 - f. posting closed signs on water fountains
 - g. monitoring sign up rolls to limit number of people for distancing within our space
2. If we become aware that someone who has attended in-person WorshipNOW gatherings later tests positive for COVID19:
 - a. With care, love and sensitivity, we will care for the individual and/or family
 - b. We will close off the area used by the sick person until thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (at least 24 hours)
 - c. We will notify those who attended the same gathering, while respecting the privacy of the diagnosed individual
 - d. We will notify the director of the child development center for the sake of DHEC compliance

Covenant of Community to Each Other:

As a part of our community, anyone who intends to participate in in-person WorshipNOW gatherings agrees to abide by the following:

1. I recognize that we have many diverse perspectives on social guidelines and safety precautions and I will respect all people and their opinions in a loving way.
2. I will not risk the health of others. Should there be any reason to think I might be a carrier or that I am sick, I will stay home to protect my sisters and brothers at PRBC.
3. Out of courtesy to others, I will wear a mask at all times when on church property (outside of my vehicle). (masks will be available at the door for those who do not have one)
4. I will sanitize my hands as I enter and have my temperature checked.
5. I will follow the direction of the hosts, moving to my seat, staying there, and waiting for direction to exit.
6. I understand that all children and youth are warmly welcome to participate, recognizing that children (elementary age and younger) also present unique challenges. How do you tell a child you love them and then refuse a hug when they open their arms? How do you honor the energy of little children, yet not let them get close to their friends. In order to minimize risk to all involved, parents of children age 5 and under will keep them within arm's reach at all times. Parents of older children will lovingly instruct their children about physical distancing at church, keeping them together with your family unit. Youth also agree to follow physical distancing. No childcare will be provided at this time.
7. I will do my part to minimize the use of public restrooms by using the bathroom at home before my arrival. Nevertheless, if needed, church restrooms will be available with open doors and I understand that only one family at a time should enter a restroom.
8. I will honor physical distancing as I leave the church, including the parking lot. I understand we will be dismissed in an orderly fashion by the hosts. I will be mindful not to impede pathways.
9. I understand that while children are the heart of the church body, for health and safety reasons, nursery or childcare will not be available at this time.

These guidelines may seem cumbersome to some people. It is not our intention to restrict access; our aim is making the space as welcoming as we can for those who wish to attend. As Christian brothers and sisters, we promise to love and care for the needs of others above our own. Loving and caring for one another and our community will look different as we proceed through these new ways together.