

Spring Valley Church of the Nazarene

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Dear beloved worshipper,

We hope that this letter finds you in good spirits and health. We have been praying for you and your family as we've endured the Covid-19 pandemic.

Slowly but surely, our state and community is beginning to reopen. As per the state of New York, houses of worship are permitted to hold services, as long as they adhere to the guidelines mandated by state and local governments. This means that our church will again be holding in-person services. While we are excited at the prospect of gathering together, we also understand the uncertainty, concern and apprehension our community may have about coming together.

As we enter into a new season of worshipping together, The Spring Valley Church of the Nazarene wants to reassure you of the steps we are taking to ensure the safety of our congregation. As we navigate through the many phases of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the physical well-being of you and your family will always be our top priority.

To ensure the safety of all in the building, here is the full description of the safety measures we are taking:

- 1.) As mandated by the state of New York, face masks are required for all attendees as soon as they enter the building. We also strongly encourage that everyone wear face masks once they are on the grounds of the church (indoors and outdoors). No one will be permitted into the building without a mask. If you are in need of a mask, one will be provided for you. Once again, everyone is required to wear a mask at all times in the building - no exceptions!
- 2.) The building is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before and after each service. Regular, deep cleans are also performed building-wide to ensure the safety of all occupants.
- 3.) Physical forms of salutations or greetings, such as hugs, kisses, handshakes, etc., are strictly prohibited!

- 4.) Strict social distancing (individual to individual and/or family to family) should be observed, maintaining at least 6 ft of separation at all times, as expressed by the CDC.
- 5.) Upon entering the building, please be prepared for a brief temperature scan and quick health questionnaire. Anyone answering “yes” to any of the questions during the screening, presenting with a temperature over 100 degrees or with visible signs of illness (sneezing, coughing, runny nose, etc.) will be politely asked to leave the premises and seek out the appropriate medical attention, if necessary.
- 6.) Proper safety equipment (i.e. face masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, disinfecting wipes, etc.) will be available at the door for use.
- 7.) Please adhere to markers on the walls and floors of the building, as they indicate safe social distancing practices as expressed by the CDC. They are for the safety of everyone in the building.
- 8.) Hand-washing and cleansing stations, as well as cleansing wipes, will be available in various locations throughout the building.
- 9.) Once in the building, all worshippers will be directed towards seating by our ushers. Families will be seated together and individuals will be seated separately, all while adhering to social distancing measures as expressed by the CDC.
- 10.) Children must be seated with their parents at all time and be escorted to bathrooms by a parent.
- 11.) We ask that worshippers follow the signs directing the flow of foot traffic in the building, in order to ensure the safety of all worshippers.
- 12.) Restroom visits should be done on an individual basis, not in groups. Please use healthy hygiene practices while occupying the restrooms.
- 13.) Instruments, equipment and materials will be cleaned before and after each service. Those using microphones must use one mic for the entire service. Switching mics is prohibited.
- 14.) While on stage, those leading, preaching or participating will continue to adhere to social distance practices. When out of view, these members will also wear masks.
- 15.) All other ministries, including men’s, women’s, children’s and youth ministries, are closed for in-person meetings at this time. Many of the ministries are meeting via

Zoom. In order to attend these meetings virtually, please connect with the ministry leader to obtain the Zoom meeting access information.

16.) Hospitality ministries, including breakfast and food pantry ministries, are currently closed. Hospital visits, home visitations and services held at home are also closed at this time.

17.) Special trainings have been designated for key members of our church staff, such as deacons, ushers and pastors, in order to ensure the safety of all those in the building.

18.) We kindly ask that those 65 years or older, or those with pre-existing health conditions, continue to join us for service through our livestream on YouTube or Zoom or through our conference phone line.

We are hopeful that the measures listed above provide the reassurance you need to feel safe enough to return to the building. We encourage you to take the time you need to feel and be ready to return to the church. When you're ready, we will be here waiting for you!

Please know that the recommendations are subject to change. As we learn more information from the CDC and the State of New York about the state of the pandemic, we will continue to update our protocol and keep you informed of changes. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to church leadership for more information.

We pray that you and your family continue to remain safe and vigilant as we journey through this together.

With Christ's love,

The Spring Valley Church of the Nazarene

