



# THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN ROXBURY

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RICHARD MEUSE  
BARRY PERSON  
JASON REID  
JAMES WADE, SR.

Congregational update, July 9, 2020

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

We pray that this update finds you and your loved ones healthy, safe and in good spirits. It has been some time since we reported our status regarding the reopening of the church building. We would like to thank every member for their prayers, patience and participation during this pandemic. As we go forward in the months ahead, we ask for your continued cooperation and support in helping us navigate the challenges that await our congregation. It will be our faith in God and the wisdom of God that will guide us to the shoreline where we all can be under one roof again for Sunday services! The following information will update you on the current guidelines and plans for reopening.

We are pleased to announce that the building was professionally cleaned and sanitized on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. This was an important and necessary step in the reopening process.

Our target date for reopening is Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. The following instructions will be in place. State law allows us to assemble at 40% of the building's capacity, which limits us to no more than 60 people in the auditorium at the same time. We will start the reopening with only one Sunday service each week. Service will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. Because we believe the reopening process should start off slowly before we work our way back into our regular Sunday schedule, there will be no Sunday adult or children's Bible classes. There will be six (6) ushers/security brethren available to help and direct members to designated seating, as well as to assist with any questions members may have. There will be no parking of vehicles in the lot across the street. We ask that all enter the building via the front door before the start of service (this is so the security/ushers can get a head count and make sure we do not exceed the lawful number). We will have thermometers onsite to check members' temperatures before they enter the auditorium. To lessen germ exposure, no pew Bibles or songbooks will be available (scriptures and songs will be projected on the screen).

We ask that all attendees follow CDC guidelines and the State requirement that cloth face coverings/face masks be worn at public gatherings. All masks/coverings must cover nose and mouth and should be on before you exit your vehicle. We encourage the use of the medical blue masks, but any cloth mask or face covering that meets the criteria above is acceptable. **NOTE: Masks with breathers (i.e., vented masks) are NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

We ask that you keep your mask on once you have entered the building, including while singing.

There will be accessible sanitizing stations placed throughout the church building, particularly at entrances and exits and in the bathrooms, for hand sanitizing. Vinyl/rubber gloves are optional. We ask that all remain seated until service is over, and that seating areas be left clean and free of debris (i.e., no paper wrappings, cups, empty bottles, trash, etc.). We request that all leave the building and return to their vehicles immediately after service has ended. Group gatherings near the building or vehicles are discouraged. If you use the downstairs restrooms after service has ended, please exit through the back door rather than going back upstairs to exit through the front door.

We encourage all to take advantage of the COVID 19 free testing sites in your neighborhoods. We encourage the most vulnerable members, those over 65 and children under the age of 10 to stay home for now, as well as all members with any medical issues, complications, sickness, fever, etc. We encourage anybody who has an ill family member at home to stay at home. We encourage no hugging, kissing, handshaking, etc., while we are still under social distancing restrictions. **We will stream our services online for those who are unable to attend in person.**

We ask all members to bring their communion cups with them to service. The church provides a month's supply of communion cups to any member who wants to pick up a package in the church parking lot on the Saturday that is designated monthly by the deacons. We ask all members to take their empty communion cups with them at the end of service and throw them away in the trash can in the church foyer.

Due to COVID 19 we prefer that members utilize electronic giving. Please get in touch with Bro Gallington if you have any questions or would like more information concerning giving instructions. Those unable to utilize electronic giving may bring their offering to service; place it in an offering envelope, and **DO NOT LICK OR SEAL THE ENVELOPE**. Leave the envelope open and make sure your name and the amount are written on the envelope.

All other ministries we currently have in place during the pandemic (Tuesday prayer night and Wednesday Bible study) will continue to be conducted remotely, until further notice. We believe the guidelines we have put in place at this stage are in the best interests of all of our members. The one thing that we do know is that we are a long way from being in the clear with COVID 19. Everyone, including the "experts," is dealing with the virus on a trial and error basis. By the grace of God we will get through this pandemic together. But it will take the support and cooperation from each and every member!