

A Plan to Move Forward

As of Friday May 22, 2020

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Western Hills leadership desires to provide a safe, spiritually uplifting environment to praise and worship God.
- We believe observing federal, state and local guidelines for dealing with the COVID-19 helps ensure the safety of those attending Western Hills and also demonstrates our commitment to be good citizens.
- We believe that our unity and fellowship are rooted in Christ and that He is living and active among us whether we are gathered in large numbers at a church building or small groups in another location.
- We believe that there is no substitute for the encouragement, equipping and edification that takes place when we assemble together as the Body of Christ.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Western Hills must be prepared to adjust to the needs of the COVID situation as it evolves and changes. Therefore, all plans are subject to modification.
- In order to resume in-person gatherings, the church must be prepared to properly sanitize all facilities according to Center for Disease Control (CDC), State of Oklahoma, and City of Lawton best practices.
- A plan to move forward must account for a wide demographic within the church, including our most vulnerable members (i.e. children, elderly, those with health issues, etc.).
- All members must be properly educated on what to expect and given guidelines for how to properly interact before church facilities are reopened.

RESOURCES

- Information about City of Lawton reopening guidelines for Places of Worship can be found at: <https://www.lawtonok.gov/publications/may-1-reopening-documents>.
- Information about State of Oklahoma reopening guidelines for Places of Worship can be found in Oklahoma's OURS (Open Up Remain Safe) Plan at <https://www.okcommerce.gov/covid19/ours-plan/>.
- A list of EPA-approved disinfectants can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.

All plans for reopening Western Hills Church of Christ are within the timelines put forth by the City of Lawton, which largely align with the statewide OURS plan. These plans are based on public health data and evolving guidance from the CDC, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). They are subject to change as the above guidance demands.

PHASE 1 Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020

Church Gatherings: All church gatherings remain online through Phase 1.

- Sunday sermon and communion available Sunday mornings on the Western Hills website at: <https://www.whchurch.com>.
- Various adult, youth and children's classes remain available throughout the week online via social media.

Church Office: Office remains closed to public.

- Office staff continues to work from home or office as needed.

Church Facilities: Facilities remain closed.

- All church facilities remain closed to church and 3rd party activity.

PHASE 2 Beginning Monday, May 18, 2020

Church Gatherings: Large gatherings remain online, small groups may begin live meetings.

- Sunday sermon and communion available Sunday mornings on the Western Hills website at: <https://www.whchurch.com>.
- Various adult, youth and children's classes and activities may consider resuming meetings in Phase 2 if they comply with the size limits in effect for the meeting location.
- OURS Plan guidelines for sanitation & physical distancing must be followed.

Church Office: Office accessible by appointment.

- Office staff will continue to work from home or office as needed but will be available during normal business hours to receive packages, answer phone calls, and conduct church business.
- Office will be accessible to the public by **appointment only** — no walk-ins, no exceptions.
- All visitors must wear masks and use hand sanitizer immediately upon entry.
- Employees in the office must follow OURS Plan guidelines including:
 - Office sanitized daily before opening and after closing
 - Daily temperature checks (must be below 100.4° to enter office)
 - Employees must wear masks at all times while in common areas
 - Sanitizing wipes available to clean office equipment after each use

Church Facilities: Indoor facilities remain closed

- Indoor church facilities remain generally closed to church and 3rd party activity
- **Limited** use for small groups and meetings may be allowed with permission, provided they comply with the size limits in effect for the meeting location and comply with social distancing and sanitation guidelines in effect.

PHASE 3 Beginning Sunday, May 31, 2020

Church Gatherings: Large gatherings resume.

- In-person worship resumes on Sunday, May 31, 2020.
- Multiple services may be necessary to insure adequate spacing to meet guidelines for physical distancing.
- On-line services will continue to be available at: <https://www.whchurch.com>) for those not yet ready or able to attend. Communion supplies will continue to be available at the church building on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to Noon.
- There will be no adult, children or youth classes. There will be no nursery. The elders will reevaluate this situation weekly.
- Small Groups can choose to meet or take a summer respite.
- Children's activities during the week will be reevaluated at the beginning of Phase 3.
- OURS Plan guidelines for sanitation & physical distancing must be followed by any groups physically meeting together.

Church Office: Office begins reopening process

- Office staff resumes normal work schedule.
- Office open to public through **appointment only** during normal business hours until further notice.
- Employees continue to follow then current OURS Plan guidelines.
- All visitors must follow then current OURS Plan guidelines.

Church Facilities: Facilities open with

- Previously scheduled and new activities may resume.

Gathering Guidelines: As various classes and activities return, additional guidelines will be provided /updated as needed. This includes, but is not limited to, nursery, classes, small groups, fellowship dinners, weddings, funerals, third party activities, and any other usage of church facilities.