

IN-PERSON COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR CALVARY CHAPEL GATHERINGS
Our Online Services will Continue
October 2020

OUR APPROACH

We are following the guidance of the Governor's Office under Phase 3 for public gatherings and as outlined by the local school boards.

We recognize that many people have strong feelings (pro and con) about Covid-19 and Governmental, CDC, State of Connecticut, and W.H.O. protocols. We also recognize that there is an equal number of people who are not sure exactly what to believe about COVID-19. Our church is made up of all of these groups and affirms the Christ-crafted consciences of all. We can live in unity and cooperation as we seek to fill the region with the Word of God.

The churches in our Movement – Calvary Chapel – are equally divided on the issues as is our local congregation. Two of the most visible national anti-Governmental Policy 'Open the Churches Now Movement' are Jack Hibbs of Chino Hills Calvary Chapel, and Rob McCoy of God Speaks Calvary Chapel. Many of the other Calvary Chapels are on the spectrum of being very cautious, meeting outside, or taking no precautions. Most are meeting in some capacity. We believe each church needs to be led by the Holy Spirit and make decisions that best serve their people, congregations and locations.

We have chosen to follow the state guidelines, as they are not asking us to do anything against the Lord or the Scriptures. Nor are they imposing on us rigorous restrictions. For some reason, unknown to us, the Governor of Connecticut from the beginning has actually given preferential treatment to houses of worship when compared to other venues. He never shut them down (although initially almost all churches voluntarily shut down public meetings due to abundance of caution and not knowing what was going on.) The Governor has consistently allowed more in religious gatherings than in other public venues (theatres, restaurants, large gatherings) and has even restricted graduations to less than numbers allowed in church attendance. It's hard to argue churches should have more freedoms when in Connecticut we already have the most. There are some states with questionable practices, and probably discriminatory practices, specifically Nevada and a few others. But Connecticut has been one of the most accommodating to churches in the country.

Even with Connecticut's generous posture towards churches the many that have reopened locally and nationally, including our own, few have returned to pre-Covid-19 numbers. There are a number of reasons for this and we are sensitive to and adjusting to all of them. Additionally, we do see this as a time where the Lord Himself is rearranging and restructuring the Church for the future, which only He knows. We're confident that a great door of opportunity is opening in front of us. We will continue to preach the Gospel, teach the Scriptures, and make disciples.

OUR FACILITIES

* We do everything we can to keep our facilities safe.

- * All of our meeting spaces are consistently disinfected before and after gatherings.
- * Ventilation is key to safe environments and we seek adequate and safe ventilation for every meeting.
- * We have sanitizer stations throughout our facilities and bottles of sanitizer on tables in our sanctuaries.
- * We provide facemasks.

WHEN ATTENDING

- * The most important consideration is to be considerate of others. Putting others before ourselves.
- * If you are ill, in a vulnerable category, or have a temperature of 100 or above please participate at home via the LiveStream, and keep us informed as to how we can continue to serve you and your family.
- * Bring a mask, or we can give you one when entering the building(s.) Masks are required in line with Phase 3 protocols in public places and CDC guidelines.
- * Upon arrival please move to seating as to not create crowds of people huddling together.
- * Please wear a mask when travelling through common areas.
- * Talk to your children about social distancing, washing hands, touching faces, etc.
- * If you are checking your children in for class please try to arrive early as to not cause crowds at the check-in stations.
- * Please be respectful of people's personal space and preferences.
- * Do not crowd restrooms and use them one family at a time.
- * Follow the signs, because we know everybody loves signs!!
- * We are using one set of doors for entry and another set of doors for exiting.
- * As long as the weather is not extreme we will have coffee and refreshments where they are usually offered. Social distancing guidelines apply in these areas as well.

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

- * All ministry personnel are asked to abide by the Governor's and CDC Guidelines at all times.

* All Children's Workers and ministry personnel need to be especially careful to watch their symptoms and temperature, as to not put any children or adults at risk.

* If you have been exposed to anyone with Covid-19 it is required that you refrain from your ministry position for 14 days of quarantine.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

* We are following the Guidelines of the local school boards in our Children's gatherings. The W.H.O. makes recommendations that the CDC considers, the CDC passes these down to states, and the states passes them down to school districts. In Connecticut the Guidelines are passed on to the individual districts to consider enacting on their own. We are following the guidance of our local school districts. These include the use of masks and social distancing. The Montville School System is requiring masks and 3-6 feet of distancing in classrooms. It varies from district to district.

IF YOU ARE INFECTED OR IN THE PRESENCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN

* The protocol to insure the safety of others is if you have been in the presence of a positive Covid-19 case you need to quarantine for 14 days.

* If you have been infected you need to follow CDC guidelines to return to public gatherings.

NOTHING CAN STOP THE FORWARD MOVEMENT OF THE CHURCH

Jesus said, "the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church." While these are trying and interesting times, we are confident that God is going before us and aligning us with His purposes and preparing us with new methods. Our commitment to teaching the Word of God and spreading the Gospel throughout the region is as strong as it has ever been.

We are more than happy, and actually desirous, to answer any questions you have concerning the church and Covid-19. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.