



*Greystone  
Baptist Church*

COVID-19 Response &  
Re-Opening



# in Kindness

a letter from Pastor Chrissy

On January 1, 2020, we began our year of kindness. We named the campaign, "Kindness Starts Here," and planned a 12-month lineup of different topics that would help us focus our kindness to specific areas of our lives. We knew we had much to learn about practicing kindness online, in our workplaces, and with our environment (just to name a few). What we did not know is that we would be learning what it means to practice kindness during a pandemic. There is still much to learn on this front but a few things are already clear: kindness sometimes looks like social distancing, mask wearing, and hand-washing.

In an abundance of kindness and care for one another, we decided to halt all in-person gatherings, beginning March 12, 2020. Since that time we have been renewed by deacon phone calls, Zoom / Webex gatherings, and worship via YouTube. We have also moved from worry about the church's financial future to gratitude and joy as you have remained faithful in your giving to the church during this difficult time. Your gifts are more important than ever and they are helping us to re-imagine church for today's realities and for the long-term future that we will share together. Thank you for stepping up and investing in that future!

While it can be exhausting at times, this phase of the journey is giving us the gifts of endurance and creativity. The Spirit is alive among us and is indeed doing a NEW thing! We have seen increased attendance in Sunday School classes that are able to meet digitally; and our number of views on YouTube consistently surpasses our attendance numbers for pre-COVID in-person worship gatherings. This is something to celebrate!

As our state moves into Phase 2 of re-opening, our church has some important decisions to make about how and when we will resume in-person gatherings. The staff and COVID-19 Think Tank have helped to advise this plan. The Diaconate and Leadership Council have finalized it; and now we offer to you our framework for Stage 1 of re-opening GBC's physical campus. The plan is fluid and will adapt to updates regarding the spread of the virus. We will continue to heed advice from the CDC, as well as from local and state officials. A Stage 2 plan is currently being developed and we will share that with you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this unprecedented time!

They say, "We are all in this together!" I must admit, I give God great thanks that I am in this with each and every one of you!

# GBC Re-Opening Stage 1



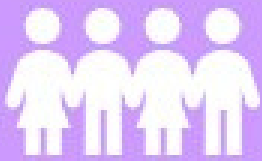
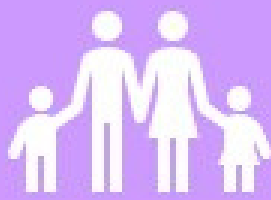

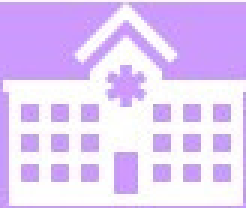
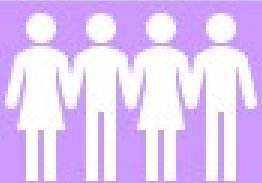
**Greystone's Stage 1 begins June 1, 2020.**

The situation will continue to be monitored and evaluated throughout the month.

Greystone's plan to reopen is **informed by** the phases of North Carolina's plan to re-open and by the CDC guidelines for faith communities.

It is important to note that **Stage 1 of Greystone's plan** happens in **Phase 2 of North Carolina's plan.**

The two plans (Greystone and North Carolina) are related, but they will **not always move at the same pace** because Greystone is working to deal specifically with our local context and address the needs of our faith community.

	WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE/HOW?
	Worship Services	Weekly	<b>Online throughout Stage 1</b> Online service continues to allow us to experience singing, speaking, and participating in communion together without putting individuals at risk
	Sunday School Team/Committee	Meeting As Scheduled	Online meetings
	Youth Activities	Weekly As Scheduled	Online Youth Meetings Occasional, in-person, small group gatherings
	Children's Activities		No programmed or in-person gatherings
	Pastoral Care/Visits Congregational Care	Stay connected during social distancing!	Congregants may schedule time to talk Outdoor visits with recommended guidance from health officials (wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands, etc.)  If you need help getting in touch with a pastor or a deacon, please dial the Minister On-Call Number which is 919-817-8975
	Healthcare, Residential, Retirement Visitation	Remain closed to visitation	Facilities remain closed to visitation
	Weddings, funerals, baptisms		Considered individually as requested

# Stage 1: Worship, Faith Formation & Care

In stage 1 of GBC's plan, we will follow the guidance of local and state health officials which discourages indoor gatherings of large numbers of people.

- **Weekly online worship services continue**, allowing us to experience singing, speaking and participating in communion together without putting individuals at risk.
- **Sunday School Classes, Committee and Team meetings** are encouraged to continue meeting online.
- Weekly zoom calls for **youth** will continue with occasional in-person, outdoor, small group gatherings.
- There will be no programmed, in-person gatherings for **children** during this stage.
- **Ministers will begin to make pastoral care visits** with congregants who would like to schedule a time to talk. Visits should be outdoors and follow recommendations of health officials (i.e. wear masks, practice social distancing, wash hands, etc.)
- **Pastoral care** (provided by ministerial staff) and **congregational care** (provided by deacons) will continue to be available via telephone and video chats. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need to talk to a minister or a deacon! This is one of the primary ways for us to remain connected during this time of physical distancing. If you need help getting in touch with a pastor or a deacon, please dial the Minister On-Call Number which is 919-817-8975.
- Healthcare facilities and residential retirement communities are still closed to visitation.
- **Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings** will be considered individually as requested.

# Stage 1: Outdoor Small Group Gatherings

In stage 1 of GBC's plan, we will follow the guidance of local and state health officials which encourage us to focus on smaller group, outdoor gatherings for **adults** and **youth**.

- Indoor campus remains closed.
- Bathrooms are available for emergencies only.
- GBC members are able to reserve the following spaces for small group (25 or less), in-person gatherings. Reservation form is online at <https://greystonechurch.org/meeting-reservation>. (See p. 11 for campus map)
  - Sawmill Parking Lot
  - Lead Mine Parking Lot
  - Covered Entryways and Breezeways
  - Picnic Tables Outside Fellowship Hall
  - Columbarium Labyrinth
  - Prayer Garden
  - Outdoor Chapel
- All who gather for outdoors, in-person gatherings are strongly encouraged to perform a self-check, wear masks and practice social distancing. (See Reference Page 10).
- Members are encouraged to bring their own chairs for outdoor gatherings.
- Outdoor gatherings should be limited to 60 minutes to minimize the need for access to bathroom.



# Stage 1: Church Office

In stage 1 of GBC's plan, we will follow the guidance of local and state health officials which encourage teleworking as much as possible.

- Ministerial Staff, Preschool Director, and Administrative Assistant continue teleworking as much as possible.
- Property Manager continues to work on-site at GBC.
- When in-office hours are needed, the staff works together to ensure minimal overlap with others who are in the office.
- Staff will wear masks when working on campus, unless they are in their own personal office.
- While in the office, staff will wash or sanitize hands regularly and practice social distancing when others are in the building.
- Drop off and pick of items can be coordinated through Annette by emailing [office@greystonechurch.org](mailto:office@greystonechurch.org).

# Stage 1: Greystone Weekday Preschool

Greystone Weekday Preschool is following the guidance of local and state health officials, the CDC and is working closely with the ministerial staff to determine how it will offer camps this summer and resume school in the fall.

- The following **four weeks of summer camp** will be offered to preschool families:
  - July 6-9
  - July 13-16
  - July 20-23
  - July 27-30
- Classes will be capped at 8 students for toddlers and 2's and 10 for 3's and 4's
- All staff and children entering the building will be screened for fever and COVID-19 symptoms
- Children will be escorted in and out of the building each day.
- There will be an isolation area for any child who becomes sick during the day.
- Handwashing will continue to be emphasized
- Classrooms will be sanitized during and at the end of each school day.
- At the end of the July camp session, the school will close for three full weeks before staff returns on August 24th in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year.



# What's Next?

While we are working very hard to answer as many questions as we can, there are still some things yet to figure out. Here's a snapshot of some of the conversations related to re-opening and digital ministry that we are currently having.

- **Re-Opening Stage 2:** Throughout the month of June, the staff, COVID-19 Think Tank, deacons, and Leadership Council will continue to prayerfully discern our next steps for re-opening Greystone's physical campus and resuming in-person gatherings. We are not sure when that will be possible, but we want you to know that we continue to work on it. If you have thoughts or concerns that you would like to share with us, please contact your deacon, a member of the ministerial staff, or a member of the COVID-19 Think Tank. Before the end of June, we hope we will have more to communicate about Stage 2 at GBC.
- **Virtual Church Conference:** As you have heard, "The campus may be closed, but the church is still open!" This is quite true! To this end, the business of the church continues and as a Baptist congregation, you play an important role in that business. So, we are planning a virtual church conference to be held in June. Stay tuned for more information about this, coming soon.
- **Deacon Nominating:** Thank you for participating in the Deacon Nomination process. The Deacon Nominating Committee received lots of incredible recommendations for our next class of deacons. Information about voting-by-mail will be shared soon.

Please Note: In addition to the staff, COVID-19 Think Tank, Diaconate, and Leadership Council, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is working with us to ensure that we are following our governance policies as closely as we can during this season of virtual gatherings.

# References

CDC Guidance for Communities of Faith

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html?deliveryName=USCDC\\_2067-DM29085](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/faith-based.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM29085)

NC Information and Recommendations for Places of Worship

<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/NCDHHS-Interim-Guidance-for-Places-of-Worship-Phase-2.pdf>

CDC Information about Cloth Face Coverings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

CDC Information on Social Distancing

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

COVID-19 Food Safety Resources

<https://foodsafety.ces.ncsu.edu/covid-19-resources/>

Hygiene / Hand Washing Flyer

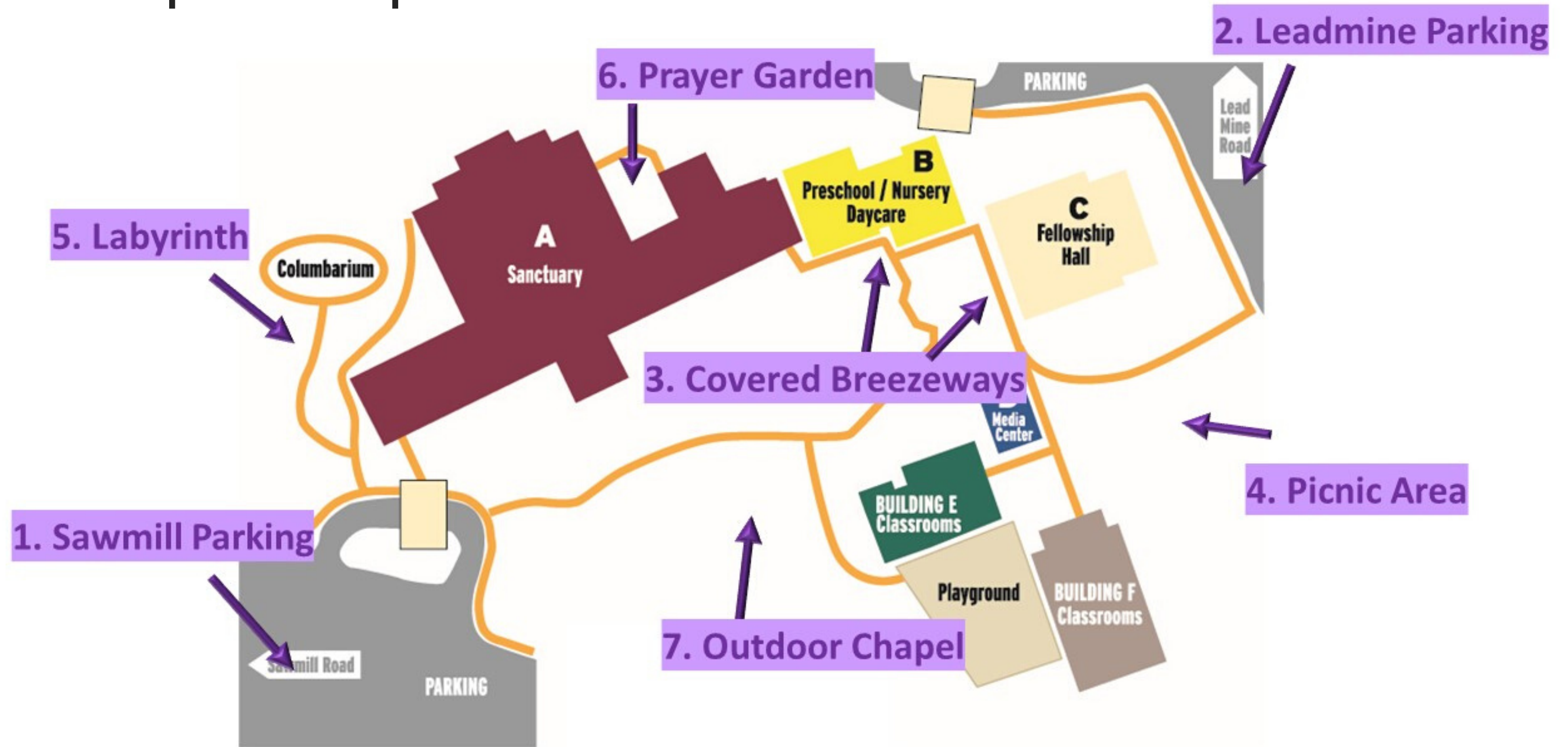
[https://foodsafety.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Handwashing\\_COVID-19\\_Flyer.pdf?fwd=no](https://foodsafety.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Handwashing_COVID-19_Flyer.pdf?fwd=no)

Symptoms of COVID-19 (use these for self check)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf>



# Campus Map



# Contact Us

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(Lou is a New Addition to the Think Tank and represents the Constitution & Bylaws Committee)

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