

THE POINT UPDATE
FEBRUARY 2021
Hello everyone.

Thanks for taking a moment to view this important video update.

It has been 12 weeks since we held onsite services here at The Point, in Seymour, Indiana.

By now, I am sure we all realize that this global pandemic has changed our world forever.

When we brought our first update about how we were responding to the outbreak of this virus this past March, none of us expected we would still be talking about it 11 months later.

Unfortunately, I doubt that any of us expect this discussion will come to a close anytime soon.

Given the constantly evolving nature of this pandemic, we have been trying to figure out the best approach for a return to onsite services here at The Point.

There are so many things that must be taken into consideration.

Today I am pleased to announce that The Point will return to onsite worship services on Sunday, February 7, 2021.

Service times will remain at 9:30 and 11 am in the worship center.

We will continue to observe social distancing guidelines and we will require masks whenever you are coming, going, or moving throughout the building.

This same policy will be in place for kids, students, and adults.

We will require masks because we believe masks are an important component in the return to safe onsite services.

If you prefer not to wear a mask, we simply ask that you continue to attend church online until the mask mandate can be lifted.

These guidelines are necessary for us to move forward with onsite services right now.

Student programming is also set to resume onsite beginning February 7.

Kids programming will resume one month later, on March 7 at 9:30 only.

Our goal is to have sufficient volunteers so that parents can drop off their kids and attend worship. More about that in a moment.

We will not be opening the infant nursery in this first phase.

Now, the key to our successful return to onsite services is the need for volunteers.

Last March, prior to COVID, we had well over 100 volunteers serving just in Kids ministry.

When we returned to onsite services last June, we couldn't field a full team of volunteers.

This pattern was also our experience with our hospitality team.

I understand the hesitation on the part of some to volunteer in certain areas, but you need to know that a strong team of volunteers is an essential part of our plans to return to onsite services.

This responsibility is far too big to be carried out by our staff and a few volunteers.

We need your help, and it is imperative that we work together to see that this need is met.

I am asking you to contact ministry leaders or the church office to let them know your plans to re-engage in serving.

We need to know we can count on you.

I also want to let you know that we will be reaching out to re-engage leaders and recruit volunteers in areas where you have served in the past.

Please, say YES when you are invited to serve.

If returning to onsite services is important to you, we need you to be willing to step up and help make it happen.

Whether your involvement is with kids, students, hospitality, or some other area of ministry, we need your help.

This is a critical rebuilding phase in the life of the church.

Our mission is important.

That is why we must come together to do our part to help all our teams and ministries succeed on the highest levels possible.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to evaluate and adapt each system to make sure that we are effectively meeting the evolving needs.

COVID has created some unusual hardships. That is true for individuals and families, it is true in the workplace, and it is true in the church,

I am convinced that together, we can navigate these challenges and come out stronger and healthier than ever before.

But that can only happen as we all come together to support our ministries and leaders.

Please don't be a spectator.
A wait and see attitude won't cut it.

We need ALL HANDS ON DECK NOW!

If you have wanted to see the return of onsite services, now is the time to step up and help make that a reality.

And the truth is, as the church returns to full capacity, I expect that we will need more ministry teams and volunteers than ever before.

Because of our space limitations in the worship center, reservations for the service you are planning to attend will be required.

You can make your reservation on our website at gotothepoint.com.

Please take this seriously.
Plan ahead.
Reserve space for you and your family.
Then be sure to show up.

We are taking a phased-in approach in our return to onsite services.

Understand that the return to onsite services does NOT mean everything will immediately be back to normal.

Over the next few weeks our leaders will be working to rebuild teams, recruit, train, and organize volunteers.

My encouragement to everyone, is to consider how you could attend one service, and find a place to serve in the other.

I believe this would set us up for the greatest success and it opens the door to the greatest potential for ministry impact in the days to come.

We cannot operate with a consumer mentality.

We talk about three key priorities on the path to spiritual maturity.

We call them the WEEKLY 3 - worship, connect, serve.

We believe that a weekly commitment of perhaps an hour or so in each of these areas, will lead a person toward spiritual growth.

Now is the perfect time to engage or reengage in serving!

Do you realize that many children have not been able to attend Point Kids or Point Student ministries since last March?

That is concerning to me.

I am committed to doing whatever we have to do to be open for the kids.

I also want to be open for those who are isolated and alone.

If wearing mask will make it possible for us to be open in a safe and healthy manner, then I say hand me a mask!

I know the idea of a mandatory mask policy is undesirable to some, while a great comfort to others.

For those among us who don't want to wear a mask, ask yourself if you are willing to wear it out of consideration for others?

Let's consider it from a biblical perspective.

In Philippians 2:4-5, the Apostle Paul says...

"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had." - Philippians 2:4-5 (NLT2)

I'll be honest.

My attitude hasn't always been the same as Jesus these past few months.

I have had my share of selfish moments, where I was more concerned about my own interests instead of the interests of others.

So, it comes down to a question of how we can love one another well.

There are people in our congregation who cannot be here if people are unwilling to wear a mask.

This is not a political issue.
It really is about showing consideration for others.

In John, chapter 13, Jesus tells us that our love for one another will prove to the world that we are his disciples.

The truth is that COVID has often revealed a level of selfishness in us that is the opposite of love for each other.

Love is not always easy or convenient.

Sometimes love requires doing things that are difficult.
It may mean doing things we don't want to do.

Jesus taught that love is self-sacrificing.
It is really about valuing others above ourselves.

So, let's consider this an opportunity to love and serve others.

We cannot make exceptions.

If masks won't work for you, please plan to attend church online.

If you are uncomfortable coming to onsite services for any reason, our online services are the right choice for you.

It will be necessary to wear a mask to enter and move around the building when services resume on February 7. This isn't forever, but it is for now.

When we reach capacity in the worship center, we will be directing people to overflow seating in other spaces.

There still may be open seats in the worship center, but since we are observing social distancing guidelines, we will need you to honor the request to move to other spaces if asked.

We're also asking that everyone refrain from gathering in the lobby. The space is small and your congregating there creates an awkward experience for the person who is trying to social distance.

In so many ways, these guidelines are about putting others first.

Even though you may not agree with everything that our leadership team has decided, I hope you see that these are simple ways to show that you care.

Help us succeed in showing our community we are FOR people.

We are FOR at risk people.

We are FOR our healthcare professionals.

And we are FOR our kids.

So, it really comes down to a question, would I be willing to wear a mask, and follow other protocols that may be personally undesirable, in order to make it possible for kids, students, and adults of all ages to be together, in church, in a way that is safe and healthy at this unprecedented time in our history?

My answer is YES!

I will do whatever it takes.
How about you?

Please join me in praying that the Lord will work in all our hearts, to sensitize us to the needs around us.

I want His will to be done.

And I want to conduct myself, in my words, in my actions, and in my attitudes, in a way that is God honoring and pleasing to Him.

This is a time when the light of Christ and the church can shine brighter than ever before.

Let's seize the opportunity as we open the doors to onsite services on Sunday, February 7.

And if Church Online is a better fit for you, praise the Lord that we have that excellent option available.

And whether you attend online or onsite, I want you to know that your presence matters.

We are going to do all that we can to continue pointing people to Jesus, and looking for safe, healthy, and creative ways to connect with each other because that is who we are, and this is what we are all about.

Thank for watching. Please know that I love you and I hope to see you soon.