

Latest Update: June 24@8AM

We are regathering on June 28!

Dear Members and Friends of Glen Acres Church of Christ from the Elders,

Most of you know that we have not been able to physically meet at the church building in Burien for over three months. Our assembly and fellowship as a family together has been severely broken, and isolation of His followers was never Christ's will or intention for the members of His body to function and grow spiritually, so we look forward eagerly to regathering.

However, the example of the early Christians in times of persecution when a local congregation was scattered, they continued carrying the gospel and doing good. The good news is that our Glen Acres family has still been able to meet in small groups on Sundays for the Lord's Supper, singing, and scriptural exhortations in living rooms, back patios and dining rooms; and by using available technology, we have connected with some members through Facebook, through online Zoom gatherings and phone connections. At other times small groups connect for sharing, prayer, and Bible studies/discussion. There have been calls made, letters or cards sent for encouragement, even though not as effectively as we desire in growing together and reaching everyone. Our deacons have been actively involved in meeting many needs, and evangelizing is happening. We have had an addition to the family of God during this time of quarantine at the end of May when Evane (Eve) Harris, a neighbor of Linda Jordan, was baptized into Christ. In other words, Glen Acres congregation is alive, though crippled in many ways.

Now, for the news you've been waiting for... we, as a church family are REGATHERING back to 11401 10th Ave. S. in Burien for corporate worship on **June 28, 2020**.

Please read the following information very carefully as the Elders have come together to answer what we believe will be your most burning questions regarding what this next phase in the life of our church family looks like.

Service Times: We will be running three services each Sunday. Cleaning between services!

9:00 AM Service – We are reserving this service for Seniors, age 60 and older and/or those who may have an immune system that may be compromised. The chairs and pews will already be set up to conform to Social Distancing Guidelines. The maximum capacity of this service is 50 people.

11:00 AM Service -- This will be a repeat/or similar of the 9:00 AM service. The chairs and pews will already be set up to conform to Social Distancing Guidelines. The maximum capacity of this service is 50 people.

5 PM Service – This will be a repeat/or similar of the 11:00 AM service. The chairs and pews will already be set up to conform to Social Distancing Guidelines. The maximum capacity of this service is 50 people.

Expectations of our Members:

- If you are feeling ill or are showing **ANY** signs or symptoms of sickness **PLEASE** stay home.
- If you have a fever of 100.4 or higher, please stay home.

- If you have a household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or with symptoms, please remain at home.
- All attendees are required to wear a mask, even if you don't agree with its benefit for protecting others' safety.
- Please plan to bring your own Bible and pen to worship.
- We ask for your patience during this time of conformity to state regulations so that we will not be sanctioned or shut down as a corporate body.
- We will need designated cleaners after and before each service to clean all surfaces that are potential touched by someone during or before the services and cleaners for the bathrooms as well. We will also need designated greeters for each service to arrive 20 minutes before services to hand out PPE as needed and to open doors. They will be wearing PPE (cloves and masks). Please let the elders and deacons know if you can volunteer for supporting the church in any of these cleaning or greeting needs.

Guidelines for Children's Ministry:

Below are the temporary guidelines that the Children's Ministry at Glen Acres Church of Christ will be following until such time as the social distancing order has been lifted. If you or your child are sick/not feeling well, PLEASE stay home. Masks are still required.

- There will be **no classes or childcare** offered at this time for any of our Sunday services.
- **Babies - 2 years old and Preschool (3 - 5-year-olds, not in K):** If you would rather not sit in the auditorium, parents can come with their child to the fellowship room. Total occupancy per service: 8 (includes adults & children). First come, first served.
- **"Kid Packs"** will be available for your child in the front foyer (one per child). The packs will have coloring sheets, crayons, etc. Packs are for your child to keep and do not need to be returned.
- **Elementary (K - 5th Grade):** Your kiddo will join you in service. Worship videos will be available on the Children's Ministry page of our Glen Acres website, but to utilize this resource, you will need to bring a device and earbuds /headphones for your child. This is just a way to give your Kids an opportunity to listen to their own programming. **"Kid Packs"** will also be available for your child on a table before entering the auditorium (one per child). The packs will have coloring sheets, crayons, etc. Packs are for your child to keep and do not need to be returned.

FAQ for Phase 1 Re-Gathering Process for Glen Acres Church of Christ

What does Phase 1 mean? (and what are the next Phases and their meanings?)

Phase 1 is what the Elders have come together in agreement upon for **regathering** at this time. We will continue to update the congregation concerning the future of our services, ministries and events, and will be re-evaluating each week as to what our next steps are and when to implement them. We are doing our very best to make sure that our members remain safe, but at the same time allow for a time of meaningful worship together.

Phase 2 is the addition of children's ministry classes and Jr. Chapel; and Wednesday Night Bible study at the church building. The Wednesday Teen program will gather on Wednesdays outside at the building periodically during the summer and then also during phase 2.

In **Phase 3**, the Seniors, age 60 and older and/or those who may have an immune system issues will begin meeting with the whole congregation and we will replace the early service with small group Bible Studies for all.

Will the service still be connected to Zoom or recorded and put on Facebook or our church's website?

Yes, it is our intention to continue offering an online service for those who do not feel comfortable coming into the church building. The online service on Facebook will be done at 10:30AM. We will be in communication about what this looks like when we have more details.

Where do I enter the building?

There will be only one place to enter Glen Acres Church building, the front main entrance doors. There will be greeters there to open the doors for you. The Children's Chapel doors will remain locked.

How will I be greeted?

All of our greeters who interact with guests and members will be wearing gloves and masks to ensure the safety of those around them. We encourage you to let our greeters open the doors for you. The entrances will be clearly marked for your convenience.

Will there be Sunday Classes or Jr. Chapel?

There will be no Sunday classes or Jr. Chapel programs for youth, children or adults until a later date.

How will I know where I can sit in the auditorium?

Signs will be placed in each pew/chair marking off safe distances for members to sit. Every other pew will be marked off for each service, so the pew that was inhabited in the first service will not be used for the second. Families are encouraged to sit together and do not have to sit 6 feet apart.

What will the Lord's Supper look like?

After the Lord's Supper meditation and prayer, a song will be sung. Members will be dismissed by row to pick up their Lord's Supper emblems from the table and return to their seat to meditate and partake. We will be double cupping our Lord Supper emblems so the bread is on the bottom and juice will be on top. Please take time to examine yourself as you eat the bread and drink the cup. (We know this is different then we traditionally serve the Lord's Supper, and so we will adjust as we can over time.)

Every other slot will be filled with the emblems to ensure people are not touching cups that are not theirs. For those who are unable to walk down to get their emblem, an usher/server will be available to bring them to you.

Will there be coffee and refreshments in the fellowship room?

No, we are suspending coffee and refreshments in the fellowship room until further notice. This room is being reserved for families with young children.

Will we get a bulletin?

No, we are suspending bulletins at this time.

Will the restrooms be available for use?

Yes, access to restrooms will be limited to no more than two people at a time. The restroom with soap and water are the best place to sanitize. Children should be accompanied by a parent. Individuals waiting to use the restroom must maintain 6 feet of distance between each person. After each service the rest rooms will be cleaned thoroughly. (We will need extra volunteers to help with the cleaning before and after each service.)

Will there be places to sanitize?

The restroom with soap and water are the best place to sanitize. Sanitizing bottles have been purchased and placed throughout the foyer, auditorium, and restrooms, along with masks available for those who may have forgotten theirs.

Can I have physical contact with others?

There will be no official handshaking or physical contact encouraged. Social distancing is still required.

Will the kitchen be available?

No, the main kitchen will be closed until further notice. Please do not go into the kitchen area. Please contact Anna, Carolyn, or Lucrecia if you need to enter or get something from the kitchen.

Will the fellowship and food service continue?

No. At the present time there will be no meals served. If someone needs food, please let one of the deacons or elders know and we will get food for them to take off site to their homes.

When will Children have classes?

We are planning to phase the children in on Phase 2 of our plan. This will hopefully start in August. We must be in Phase 3 of the WA State plan for this to begin.