



**Lafayette**  
federated  
church

*Exalting* THE SAVIOR

*Equipping* BELIEVERS

*Expanding* HIS KINGDOM

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**FALL 2020  
MINISTRY PLAN**

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# OVERVIEW

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## ***Well, this is different...***

Did anyone catch the license plate number of the bus that just ran over 2020? What a strange year this has been. Unprecedented, unexpected, untenable. All these words describe the changes we have experienced over this past year. Even more challenging has been trying to navigate through the differing opinions and viewpoints on everything from wearing masks, to the reality and accuracy of numbers being reported, to the concern with government overreach, to the fear of the vulnerable, and our loved ones contracting the virus.

In the midst of the uncertainty, disagreements, and differences, we have remained unified around this central truth: **Lafayette Federated Church exists for the purpose of Exalting the Savior, Equipping Believers and Expanding His Kingdom.** We have found a way to stay focused on what unifies us all: our commitment and love for Jesus Christ, and our call to learn, live, and share the Gospel in our community and beyond.

Our church has also remained faithful in our giving. This has allowed us to continue to gather for worship, improve our online streaming capabilities, offer multiple Zoom and live streamed Bible study opportunities, offer student ministries and programming, and continue with vital ministries like Celebrate Recovery and Stephen Ministry. We have been able to continue to fully meet our financial commitments to our missionary partners around the world. We have maintained the ministry of a full pastoral staff and have even expanded the reach and effectiveness of our community outreach through ministries like The Well and the Sunshine Shop.

## ***Moving Forward***

It's hard to move forward when you can't clearly see where it is you are going. Making plans for ministry in the fall of 2020 certainly presents some challenges. Will the mandates for the sizes of gatherings change? Will there be another big outbreak? When will most people feel comfortable coming back to the church building, and if so, what will our programs and ministries look like?

While none of us really know the answers to those questions, we have confidence in a Sovereign God who is fully in control. That leaves us in the exciting position of praying and seeking God's direction, and then boldly and confidently moving forward trusting that, ultimately, "God's got this!" Our plans for the ministries of LFC this fall and beyond are an expression of both prayer and trusting action. They are the plans of people who know everything might change, but that God will not. So, we're moving forward with optimism, excitement, and just a LITTLE feeling of queasiness in our gut.

## ***Short-Term Solutions for the Present Situation***

Ministries and programs are going to look VERY different for this fall. We will do our best to explain the rationale behind the changes. However, please understand this: **these changes represent short-term solutions for the present situation.** These are not precedent-setting changes. Most of what we do in our ministries and programs are purposeful and effective. We do them because they most effectively help us carry out our mission as a church during normal circumstances. These are not normal circumstances, so we are adapting and modifying.

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# OVERVIEW *(Continued)*

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## ***Ministries as an Expression of our Mission***

One final word. We are presenting our Fall Ministry Plan in the context of our Mission Statement. The following is our short-term plan to fulfill our mission to **Exalt the Savior, Equip Believers, and Expand His Kingdom**. This is very intentional. Because we are needing to scale back and change what we normally do, we need to make sure what we maximize the effectiveness of what we are going to do. This plan certainly does not outline EVERYTHING that goes on in the life of the church. Instead, it is intended to address those key ministries and programs that need to be adapted in order to move our mission forward.

## FALL 2020 MINISTRY PLAN

# *Exalting* THE SAVIOR

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Sunday Morning Worship Services will continue to be offered in the sanctuary, outside under the tent (as long as temperatures allow) and streaming online via our website, YouTube and Facebook Live. We will continue to strive for the services to be right at an hour in length to help those who are wearing masks and for the sake of making our Children's Discipleship Program the most successful (see below).

Right now, there isn't a need for two services. If things remain as they are, we will continue with one 9:30 am service. If circumstances or attendance changes, we will adapt and offer two services. The time of those services would be based on several factors, so it wouldn't be prudent to pre-determine those times right now.

There will continue to be opportunities for church members to use their gifts and talents in worship leading, playing instruments, and serving in the worship support and tech ministries. We will not have the traditional Christmas musical this year. There are simply too many unknowns about what the next few months will bring to invest the time and money into it. However, plans are being made for an adapted format for this annual highlight of our church year.

**“What happens when it gets too cold to be outside?”** We will do everything we can to accommodate outdoor worship as long as there are those uncomfortable with coming in the building for worship, or who aren't comfortable wearing masks inside. Part of the challenge of coming up with a Fall Ministry Plan is that we just don't know what kinds of changes are coming.

## FALL 2020 MINISTRY PLAN

# Equipping BELIEVERS

We categorize our Equipping Ministries into three areas: **Children, Youth** and **Adults**. All of these ministries are focused on helping our people grow in what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

### CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP

This will be a big (temporary) change. Due to space issues and teacher availability issues, we cannot offer our regular programs—Sunday School, Boy's Brigade, Pioneer Girls, and Skippers. So, for the short-term, we will have a Children's Discipleship Program called "Kingdom Kids" on Sunday mornings that runs during the sermon time for children ages three through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If we would have the need to move to two worship services, we would likely only offer this children's program during one service. This would be in lieu of our traditional Sunday School program—again, just for the short-term. We will continue to do our best to engage and involve children in the worship service and will continue to provide sermon note pages for those kids who choose to stay in the service.

### STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

We would divide kids into two groups—younger and older. One group would be in the gym and the other in the Youth Room. The format would include elements like singing, a quality teaching video, and a gifted adult teacher utilizing object lessons, etc.

Kids would be assigned an "X", a picture, etc. on the floor and would need to stay pretty much in that spot. This is one of the reasons that this time would need to be filled with active singing, engaging videos, and dynamic object-based teaching. We will follow the current school guidelines, **which, at the time of printing, means kids would need to wear masks**. Adult helpers would need to wear masks, unless they are leading singing or teaching. All kids and adults would need to go through the basic temperature/symptoms screening before entering the room.

We will also provide a completely unique "Zoom" option for families who are not comfortable coming back to the church building. This will be offered immediately following the live-streamed worship service (10:30 am) and will be specifically geared to maximize engagement with kids. The plan right now is to offer two different Zoom groups, one for younger kids and one for older kids.

### REASON FOR THE CHANGE

We feel that many of our parents would be reticent to send their kids to a ministry setting that takes place in small classrooms. Using the classrooms would necessitate another level of room preparation (desks separated by plexiglass barriers, a low number of children due to social distancing requirements) that would hinder our goal of discipling children. We also believe that there is a significant hesitation on many parent's part in sending their children into a small-classroom setting. This makes running a traditional, classroom-based Sunday School program not possible at this present time. We think that right now, a large-room setting would be the best option to meet the needs of the largest number of families.

**"Ugh, but why are we pulling all the children out of the service?"** Great question! One of our fundamental goals in children's ministry is to develop children into full-fledged participants in the life of the church. To that end, we intentionally limit the Junior Church ministry to kids ages 3-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. We try our best to draw the older children into the worship service through providing sermon notes, adapting the message to include elements to engage kids, and by inviting kids to the front each week to show a pastor their notes, ask any questions, and receive a small prize. We fundamentally believe that kids need to be worshipping and learning as much as possible with the greater church family.

However, here's the present reality. We have had a significant number of Children's Ministry leaders/teachers/workers say that they would NOT be available to work in the Children's Ministry this fall (over 50% at the time of this being written). Also, because the setting of Children's Ministry will need to be in big open spaces, it would be counter-productive on Sunday mornings to have a Junior Church program during the service and then send those same kids to the same setting for a Sunday School program, expecting them to stay in one area for another, very similar program.

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## FALL 2020 MINISTRY PLAN

# Equipping BELIEVERS *(Continued)*

**“What about Wednesday night programs, like Boy’s Brigade, Pioneer Girls and Skippers?”** Another brilliant question! There will not be Wednesday night children’s programming this fall for a couple of reasons. First, we do not have anything close to the number of leaders/teachers who are able to serve in the fall. Second, the setting—big room, staying in one area, etc.—would, again, become too much of a rehash of Sunday morning children’s programming. Third, we are excited to share (below) about our church-wide “Fall Family Fun Nights” on Wednesday nights. This is going to be a wonderful fellowship opportunity for our church family, as well as a huge, church-wide strategy for reaching our community during the months of September and October. (See “Expanding” strategy below)

**It is important to note:** This is definitely a short-term solution for the current situation. We remain committed to having a dedicated Sunday School time, a much more age-limited Junior Church ministry, and Boy’s Brigade/Pioneer Girls/Skippers. We believe that it is vitally important to have middle and older aged children in the service so they can learn to be a full part of the local Body of Christ.

**“Do you seriously think kids will stay socially-distanced? Wearing masks? Did you fall and hit your head or something?”** Another good question (though the tone kind of hurt my feelings!). We realize that this will be a challenge. We realize that by simply saying this, some of you have decided that your kids will not participate. We get it. However, we must go by some guideline, and the school guidelines, while still challenging, do present the best opportunity for the least restriction. We have come to understand that in this “age of Covid” that it is **utterly impossible** to please and meet the needs of everyone along the spectrum of opinions about these things. We are prayerfully moving forward with what we think is the best solution for our church family.

### ***YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP***

The main program for youth discipleship will be the normal Saturday night youth group meeting. Saturday night youth group already has a built-in discipleship element as a key component of the night. Saturday night youth group will continue to meet outside as long as temperatures permit. If weather requires the meeting to be inside, the gym and the youth rooms can be utilized. **At the time of printing, youth would need to wear masks.** We will also offer a unique Zoom option for youth discipleship. This will be led by a totally different teacher and include interactive elements

### ***ADULT DISCIPLESHIP***

We will offer various Bible study opportunities for adults throughout the week. These studies will be a mixture of Zoom studies, live studies (outdoors or indoors with masks), and/or hybrid studies (live with either a Zoom option or live streamed option.) We will have a full slate of fall Bible studies ready to be announced by the end of August.

**“What about Sunday School?”** We will not be offering traditional Sunday School classes in the church building this fall either before or after worship services. This does not mean that individual groups can’t meet in the building at various times. However, we will not be offering a church-wide Sunday School program due to space issues when social distancing measures are followed, the inability to offer a concurrent children’s Sunday School program, as well as the unavailability of several teachers.

**“What about Celebrate Recovery?”** Glad you asked! Celebrate Recovery will continue to meet as they are now. This group has been meeting for many weeks while being able to follow current guidelines.

# Expanding HIS KINGDOM

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## FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH

This is one of those “God is giving us an exciting opportunity because of Covid” moments. This fall, we will be using Wednesday nights on our beautiful property to meet two vital needs—**fellowship** among the church family and **reaching out** to families in the our community. “**Fall Family Fun Nights at LFC**” will be our church-wide fellowship focus, along with being our key fall outreach strategy.

## STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

Fall Family Fun Nights would be a series of events taking place on each Wednesday night during the months of September and October. They will take place under and around the pavilion, which will allow people to attend without masks. These Fun Nights would be from 6:30-8:30 pm. Each night will have a different theme, like a “Harvest Fest”, “Family Fun Carnival”, “Reptile Show”, or “Talent Show”. (These are just examples. Don’t start dusting off your karaoke machines just yet.) There would also be planned activities at different stations with things like smores, ping pong ball games, hayride, music, etc.

We will remain focused on two key goals. First, to provide much needed **fellowship** with the church family (we miss each other!!). Second, to **connect with people** in the community, to build relationships, invite them to church, and introduce them to Christ. We will have teams of trained people ready to connect and share the Gospel with people who are there.

There are several reasons why we think this is an exciting outreach opportunity for us. **First**, it would unify our church family for the purpose of reaching out to the community. “Fall Family Fun Nights” would need to be promoted and prayed for church-wide. It would be presented as our church’s key outreach strategy for the fall. **Second**, it would give people an opportunity to be serving during this time when our traditional ministries are on hold. Families, individuals, Shepherding Groups, ministries like Celebrate Recovery, Stephen Ministries, etc. could host booths, run games, etc. **Finally**, it would be a unique way to reach the community while utilizing one of our great assets—our beautiful pavilion and field area

“**That sounds great, but it also sounds like a lot of work!**” Agreed! **Pastor Brian**, who is Pastor of Kingdom Expansion Ministries, will gather a team of people to lead, recruit, and train church members to carry-out this ministry.

“**What are we going to do after October?**” We don’t know. How about you start praying about that along with us.

## CARE MINISTRIES

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We will continue to offer our Care Ministries, all of which have continued to function throughout the spring and summer in different capacities. These ongoing ministries include:

- ◆ Stephen Ministry
- ◆ The Well
- ◆ Sunshine Shop
- ◆ Deacon Ministry
- ◆ Grief Ministry



## SUMMARY

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### **Exalting** THE SAVIOR

- ◆ Continue with in person, outdoor, and live-streamed services at 9:30 am.
- ◆ We will continue with one service until/unless circumstances necessitate adding another service.
- ◆ There will not be a traditional Christmas Musical (Cantata). However, there will be a modified and adapted version!

### **Equipping** BELIEVERS

- ◆ **Children's Discipleship:** There will be a single, Sunday morning Children's Discipleship called "Kingdom Kids" for kids ages 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade that will run concurrently with the worship service during the sermon time. We will divide the kids into two groups-younger and older. The program will take place in the gym and Room 207. The format will include things like active singing, quality videos, and dynamic teaching. We will also offer a unique "Zoom" option that will happen at 10:30 am right after the worship service.
- ◆ **Youth Discipleship:** We will continue offering Saturday Night Youth Group, which offers a good mix of fellowship, fun, and intentional discipleship. We will also offer a unique "Zoom" alternative for families who are uncomfortable coming to the church building.
- ◆ **Adult Discipleship:** We will offer a full slate of in-person, Zoom, live-streamed and "hybrid" Bible studies throughout the week at different times and locations.

### **Expanding** HIS KINGDOM

- ◆ We have a **fellowship opportunity** and an **outreach strategy** in "**Fall Family Fun Nights at LFC.**" This will be a series of events taking place on each Wednesday night during the months of September and October. They will take place under and around the pavilion, which will allow people to attend without masks. These "Fall Family Fun Nights" will be from 6:30-8:30 pm. Each night will have a different theme along with planned activities at different stations with things like smores, ping pong ball games, hayride, music, etc.
- ◆ The key goals will be to re-connect the church family in fellowship and to connect with people in the community, to build relationships, invite them to church, and introduce them to Christ. We will have teams of trained people ready to connect and share the Gospel with people who are there.