

Here are some important updates on our ever-evolving, COVID-19-era worship service plans for the New Market Church:

**1. Beginning October 3: Three Worship Services.** Yes, you read that correctly! Beginning October 3, and until the weather forces us to finally cancel the outdoor worship service at SVAE, we will be holding three worship services each Sabbath.

**2. When and Where Will the Three Services Meet?** Here's the schedule, again beginning October 3:

- **9:00 AM** – First Worship Service Indoors in the Church Sanctuary
- **10:15 AM** – Sabbath School at various locations (check with your teacher) both online and in-person
- **11:30 AM** – Two Simultaneous, Separate Worship Services: One Indoors at the Church Sanctuary, and One Outdoors at SVAE (Note: The preacher and sermon will NOT be the same at these two services.)

Just to be clear: The 11:30 AM worship services will occur at the SAME TIME in TWO DIFFERENT locations.

You are welcome to attend any of these three services!

Health Note: Don't forget that masks, social distancing, and other safety protocols must be observed at any indoor worship service. (Please see video on the top of the home page of [www.newmarketadventist.org](http://www.newmarketadventist.org) for more information.)

Health Note #2: If you are wanting to attend an indoor service, but have conditions that may make you more susceptible to health issues, please consider attending the 9:00 AM worship service option. That service will have the added benefit of not having already had large numbers of people present in the sanctuary that day.

**3. Why three services?** Three reasons.

**First**, as long as the governor's Phase 3 requirements remain, worshipping in our sanctuary will require two services, as max attendance per service is capped too low for one service to hold all of us.

**Second**, we want to preserve the outdoor worship option as long as we can, as we know there are many members who are not yet comfortable worshipping indoors.

**Third**, when the time comes for the outdoor service to go away due to the weather, we unfortunately cannot simply snap our fingers and start a second

service inside the church. (Imagine canceling the outdoor service on a Friday night due to sudden weather changes, and then trying to have an indoor service—a service requiring very different preparation, worship elements, A/V plans, staffing, etc.— less than 24 hours later. Experience has shown this is not wise to attempt!)

Consequently, we want to get a head start, so that when the weather says “no more!”, we’re ready to go indoors, with two well-planned services, at a moment’s notice.

**4. Live Stream Service Time.** Beginning October 3, 2020, the 11:30 AM indoor worship service in the sanctuary will become the live stream service, as well. (Note: Announcements will begin being live streamed at 11:25 AM.)

**5. Children’s Sabbath School Options Beginning October 3.** All Children’s Sabbath School age brackets will have an in-person option available by October 3 (though some classes may also be available online – please check out <https://www.newmarketadventist.org/zoom-online-meeting-instructions-invitations-and-more/> for more details). **COVID-19 safety protocols will be in effect, including mandatory mask wearing for all attendees 10 years old and older, social distancing, etc.** Most classes will be meeting in the Children’s Sabbath School wing of the church.

**6. Adult Sabbath School Class Options Beginning October 3 are NOT YET FINALIZED.** But to at least give an idea of where we may be headed, the schedule currently being considered by the Sabbath School Council is as follows:

- One General Adult SS Class: Sanctuary
- Women's SS Class: Fellowship Hall
- Spanish SS Class: Fellowship Hall Annex
- One English-Speaking Online Adult SS Class via Zoom
- Spanish-speaking online Sabbath School classes also available (see <https://www.newmarketadventist.org/zoom-online-meeting-instructions-invitations-and-more/> for more details as October 3 draws nearer)

Again, the above class information is not yet final. The final plan will be publicized as soon as possible.

**7. Regarding the Outdoor Service.** Three notes on this service:

- **First**, please remember that SVA dorm students are considered “family” according to the Virginia governor’s order, and are therefore not required to socially distance from each other.

- **Second**, we are committed to making sure there will always be plenty of space to socially distance at the outdoor service! Feel free to move your chair or blanket as needed to meet your distancing desires.
- **Third**, just a reminder that masks are encouraged (though not required) at the outdoor service.

**8. Weather Notifications.** Have you signed up yet for our church texting service? If not, please do so in order to get important announcements, including worship service cancellation notices due to inclement weather. Sign up by texting "church" to **540-340-5775**.

**9. Questions?** Don't hesitate to contact the church office at 540-740-8550 or via email at [nmchurch@shentel.net](mailto:nmchurch@shentel.net). And as always, our website, [www.newmarketadventist.org](http://www.newmarketadventist.org) will have the latest information on worship services, Sabbath Schools, etc.

Hope to see you soon! Have a good week and a good Sabbath!

Pastor Shane

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