

# Village Church Gatherings

## One Church, Scattered Together

**Purpose:** Village Church gatherings are smaller groups of people who **worship** God together, **share** life together, and **love** our neighbors together.

**Vision:** We don't want to merely *get through* this season but *grow through* this season. Whether in-person where we can or online where we must, we believe God not only can unify a scattered church, but also deepen our walk with him.

We are viewing Village Church Gatherings as a *primary* means through which we:

- **Worship:** Spend time listening and responding to the online-service together.
- **Pray:** Pray inwardly for one another and outwardly for the world.
- **Study:** Grow in our knowledge of Scripture in conjunction with the sermon.
- **Fellowship:** Share life, food, resources, and friendship.
- **Make Disciples:** Grow in our relationship with Christ.
- **Love:** Serve our neighbors through or invite our neighbors into a gathering.

Being the church hasn't stopped, it's evolved. The Christian Church has too rich a history of being a source of hope, peace, and help amidst hard seasons. We believe this season is a historic moment where Christ will not only sustain his church, but can do a mighty work through his church for the sake of the gospel.

**Join us!** Someone on our team would like to get you plugged into a gathering. Fill out the form on our [website](#) to get the ball rolling.

## Gatherings – FAQs

**Why call them *Village Church Gatherings*?** The Greek word ἐκκλησία (*ekklesia*) is accurately translated, “church.” This word can also be translated, “gathering.” As Village Church meets throughout the week via zoom or in person, we are *gathering* as one church, scattered together.

### What will we *do* in our gathering?

- **Worship God together:** The pandemic has essentially transitioned our church from a single-campus ministry to a multi-campus ministry. *Should* the church assemble? Yes, Christ requires it (Hebrews 10:25). *How* should the church assemble? For this season, we gather under *many* roofs to worship. Regardless of location, each gathering will participate in the service via livestream (either before or during their gathering), then work through the worship liturgy to respond to God through prayer, discussion based on the scripture most recently preached, and serving.

- **Share life together:** We are not designed to do the Christian life alone. We are called to discipleship: living life together in light of the gospel where our faith can be encouraged and sharpened. Gatherings seek to foster a community in which we can share and apply the gospel to the struggles, fears, and joys of our lives. This is especially important in the COVID season as we face challenges together and look to God's Word for hope.
- **Love our neighbors together:** In addition to the outreach opportunities on our website, consider these examples to inspire your gathering to creatively love your neighbors amidst this COVID season: do a prayer walk, host an outdoor movie night, distribute food, call or video chat with those in hospitals or nursing homes, or invite people from your personal circles into a gathering. Our desire is that genuine opportunities to share the gospel and to share Christ's love would naturally arise as a result of our time together.

**How often do Village Church Gatherings meet?** Gatherings meet once per week

**How big is each gathering?** Gatherings ideally consist of 6 to 10 adults. Gatherings naturally grow as more people join from within Village Church or are invited from your personal circles. Once a gathering has grown to 12 to 14 adults, we encourage the gathering to multiply into two independent gatherings.

**How are gatherings led?** Gatherings are ideally led by teams of two that consist of a **facilitator** and a **host**. Facilitators guide the group by working through the discussion guide. Hosts take responsibility over the place where gatherings meet.

**Where do we meet?** Each gathering will choose a day, time, and place that works best for the group. Gatherings can meet via zoom, in person (according to CDC guidelines), or in a combination of both!

**I would rather not (or cannot) meet in person. What then?** We ask all gatherings to honor wise directives regarding health, safety, and social distancing. We also ask those with compromised health to *only* participate electronically. If you are not comfortable (or not able) to gather in-person, we encourage you to participate with our service via livestream then join your gathering electronically.