



THE CORNERS CHAPEL

PHOTO TEAM



“Photography allows people to visit your church before they actually visit your Church.”

BEN STAPLEY



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THE WHY

At Corners Chapel, we believe that photography is more than just taking pictures—it's about telling the story of what God is doing in and through our church. Every week, we gather as a church family to worship, connect, and grow. Photography is a tool that allows us to capture and share these moments in a way that inspires, invites, and connects others to our mission of seeing lives transformed by the Word of God.

1. Photos Tell a Story

People remember and connect with stories. Photography allows us to share the stories of real people in real moments, helping those outside the church feel a sense of belonging and inviting them into what God is doing at TCC.

2. Utilizing The Congregation's Strengths

God has given each person unique talents. If someone has a gift for photography, we want them serving in that capacity. This is a way to honor their strengths and allow them to thrive while contributing to the mission of the church.

3. Setting Expectations for New Guests

Photos ease the fears of potential visitors by showing them what to expect—how people dress, the atmosphere, and the diversity of our church family. Authentic photos of real moments help paint a clear, welcoming picture of our community.



SCHEDULING

At The Corners Chapel, all serve teams, including the Photo Team, operate on a four-week rotation. This system allows serve team members to serve on multiple teams without overlap and ensures consistency across all teams. Maintaining this rotation is crucial—if one team deviates from the four-week schedule, it disrupts the entire system.

ROTATION

- At the **start of each serve team year** (or when a new member joins or leaves the Photo Team), a rotation schedule will be sent out, listing who is scheduled for each week.
- These rotations will not change unless otherwise noted by the Team Lead or Communications Director.

SERVE REQUESTS

- Each week, the **Communications Director** will send a serve team request to the serve team member scheduled for that week.
- It is important to respond promptly by accepting or declining the request to confirm availability.

FINDING A REPLACEMENT

- If a serve team member knows they cannot serve on their scheduled week, it is their responsibility to find a replacement by switching with another Photo Team member.
- The Team Lead can assist in finding a replacement if needed, but it remains the serve team member's responsibility to initiate the switch.
- Once a replacement has been found for the week, the serve team member must inform both the Team Lead and the Communications Director of the switch.



ETIQUETTE & DISCRETION

Staying Unnoticed: The Art of Discreet Photography

One of the primary goals of the Corners Chapel Photography Team is to capture genuine, authentic moments without distracting from the worship experience. The best photos are often taken when people don't realize they're being photographed—this ensures we're highlighting true worship and connection.

Here are some key tips to help photographers stay discreet and unnoticed:

DRESS FOR THE ROLE

- **Wear neutral clothing:** Avoid bright colors or anything that might draw attention to yourself. Dark or muted tones work best, especially in the dimly lit auditorium.
- **Avoid noisy accessories:** Shoes or jewelry that make noise when walking can be distracting. Opt for quiet footwear and minimal accessories.

BE MINDFUL OF MOVEMENT

- **Move slowly and deliberately:** Quick, sudden movements can catch people's attention. Try to walk smoothly and take your time when adjusting your position.
- **Avoid standing in one place too long:** Linger in a single spot can cause people to become aware of you. Move periodically, even if it's just a few steps to a new angle.

CAMERA TECHNIQUES FOR DISCRETION

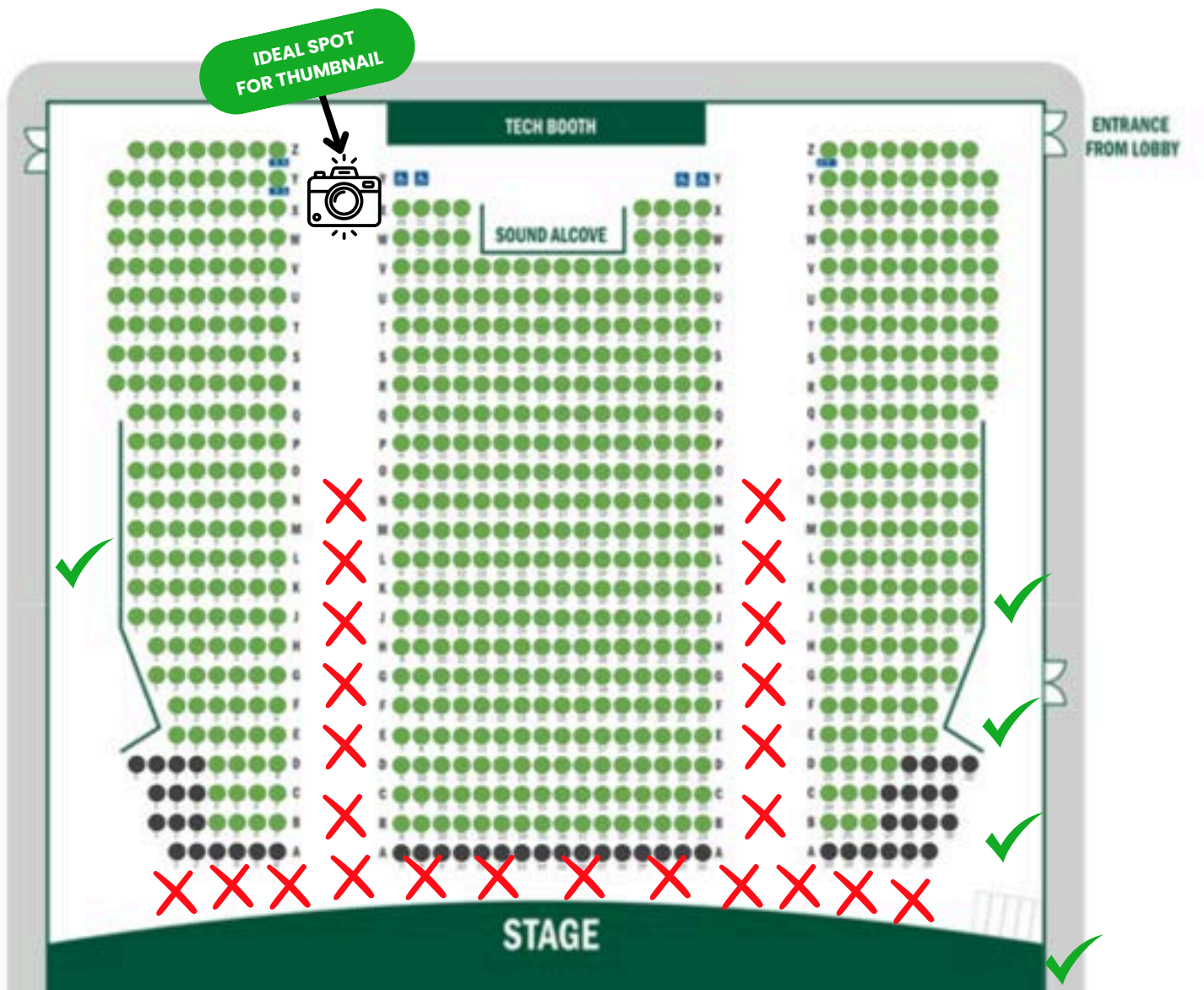
- **Turn off unnecessary sounds:** Ensure that the camera's shutter sound and autofocus beeps are turned off (silent mode).
- **Avoid using flash:** The flash can be distracting, so always ensure your settings are adjusted for low-light conditions.
- **Use a long lens:** A telephoto lens allows you to capture close-up shots from a distance, reducing the need to move in close to your subject.
- **Stay low or at the edges:** Kneeling or crouching near the sides of the room can help you remain less noticeable. Avoid standing in the front or center of the room unless absolutely necessary.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MOMENTS TO SHOOT

- **Look for high-energy moments:** During worship, laughter, or applause, people are less likely to notice a photographer.
- **Be patient:** Sometimes, the best moments happen when you wait quietly and observe. Avoid snapping constantly—focus on capturing fewer, more meaningful photos.
- **Avoid the same subject repeatedly:** Don't focus on the same individual or group multiple times during one service, as they may start to notice.

Worship Center Layout

(WHERE TO SHOOT AND WHERE NOT TO SHOOT)



Respecting Vulnerable Moments

We want to capture the beauty of worship, including moments when people are deeply engaged or even moved emotionally. These photos tell a powerful story of God's presence and work in our community. However, it's crucial to approach these moments with respect and sensitivity. Focus on capturing the essence of worship without disrupting or drawing attention. Avoid lingering too long or invading someone's personal space, and always aim to honor the individual and the sacredness of the moment. When done thoughtfully, these photos can inspire others and reflect the heart of worship at The Corners Chapel.



WHEN TO AVOID TAKING PHOTOS:

- **Emotional moments:** If someone is visibly emotional (e.g., crying during worship), it's best to respect their privacy and avoid taking a photo.
- **Prayer table interactions:** Moments at the prayer table are often deeply personal. Unless you have clear permission from the individuals involved, avoid photographing these interactions.
- **Sensitive personal moments:** Be cautious when photographing situations like someone praying quietly or a parent comforting a child during a difficult moment.

GENERAL RULE OF THUMB:

If you feel unsure about whether a moment should be captured, it's better to err on the side of caution. You can **always check in with the Production Director** if you're uncertain. Our priority is to protect the dignity and comfort of our congregation while still capturing the joy and connection of our church family.

SPEAKERS

Pictures of our Sunday morning speakers are used primarily as thumbnails for the message, and also for other promotional materials.

IMAGE REQUIREMENTS

- GENUINE SMILE
- INVITING GESTURES
- BOTH EYES ARE VISIBLE AND OPEN
- NO AWKWARD FACES

SUGGESTED CAMERA SETTINGS

- SHOOT IN MANUAL MODE
- F-STOP: 2-2.8
- ISO: 2000-4000
- BURST MODE

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ·CAPTURE AN EMOTION
- ·HANDS OPEN OR ON BIBLE
- ·SHUTTER SPEED: 200+
- ·COLOR TEMPERATURE: 4700
- ·COLOR PROFILE: STANDARD
- ·SPEAKING SHOT WAIST UP OR HEAD TO TOE
- ·PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY ARE SAYING TO CAPTURE A SMILE
- ·BURST 3-5 PHOTOS WHEN SMILE APPEARS
- ·IF HOLDING A MIC, MAKE SURE YOU CAN SEE THE ENTIRE SMILE
- AVOID CHEST UP ONLY PICTURES
- LEAVE ROOM ABOVE THE HEAD AND ON THE SIDES
- MAKE SURE PICTURES ARE IN FOCUS.



WORSHIP CENTER

We take photos in the worship center to tell the story of authentic worship and help those outside our church see what it looks like to experience God's presence at TCC.

TYPES OF SHOTS WE WANT

- **Worship moments:** Focus on people actively engaged in worship—raising hands, singing, or praying.
- **Congregation interaction:** Look for moments that show the congregation engaging with the message, such as note-taking or listening attentively.
- **Creative angles:** Try shooting through elements (e.g., between people or over shoulders) for more artistic perspectives.
- **Worship team:** Capture various members of the worship team in action, focusing on instruments, vocalists, and team dynamics.



TYPES OF SHOTS TO AVOID

- **Empty seats:** Shots that show large areas of empty seating, can unintentionally give the wrong impression of our church. Focus on tighter shots that highlight the people present.
- **Repetitive shots:** Don't capture the same type of image multiple times (e.g., the same angle of the speaker every week).



SUGGESTED CAMERA SETTINGS

- SHOOT IN MANUAL MODE
- F-STOP: 2-2.8
- ISO: 2000-5000
- BURST MODE



CHURCH LIFE

Photos in the **hallways**, **lobby**, and **outside** showcase the vibrant community at Corners Chapel. Capturing these moments helps tell the story of joy, diversity, and belonging.

TYPES OF SHOTS WE WANT

- **Candid moments:** Prioritize natural interactions—people smiling, talking, hugging, or laughing.
- **Posed shots:** Groups of 2-3 people smiling at the camera.
- **Conversations:** Capture groups of two or more in conversation.
- **Depth and crowd:** Create depth by including blurred people in the background behind your subject.
- **Diversity :** Look for moments that reflect the multiethnic AND multigenerational diversity of our church.
- **Movement and energy:** Capture people walking, greeting, or kids running around outside for lively shots.



TYPES OF SHOTS TO AVOID

- **Awkwardly empty spaces:** Avoid shots where there are too few people or empty areas dominating the frame.
- **Unengaged groups:** Don't take photos of people who look upset or uninterested.

QUICK TIP

GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE. CREATE THE SHOT. MAKE CONVERSATION WITH GUESTS – “CAN YOU LAUGH AND SMILE AT EACH OTHER?”



CORNERS KIDS

*Capturing moments in Corners Kids helps tell the story of our children's ministry. However, we are committed to ensuring that parents and guardians feel comfortable and that kids' safety and privacy are respected. Below are our guidelines and best practices for photographing kids during both **designated photo Sundays** and **regular Sundays**.*

DESIGNATED PHOTO SUNDAYS

On designated photo Sundays (3-4 times per year), parents will be informed ahead of time that photos will be taken. We will provide a special sticker for any child whose parents request they not be photographed.

- **Photo guidelines on designated Sundays:**
 - You are free to capture photos of kids' faces without restrictions, except for those wearing the designated sticker.
 - Focus on **joyful moments, group interactions**, and kids engaging in activities (e.g., crafts, games, or worship).
 - Older kids can be asked to pose together, and you can create fun, candid-style shots by asking them to laugh, talk, or interact naturally.

REGULAR SUNDAYS

On regular Sundays, we want to continue capturing moments in Corners Kids while respecting privacy. The following best practices should be followed:

- **Shoot from behind:** Capture kids engaged in activities with their backs to the camera or from over-the-shoulder angles.
- **Focus on teachers:** Take photos that highlight the teachers leading the group, with kids slightly blurred or in the background.
- **Limit group shots with faces:** If you are capturing well-known kids, try to ensure they are the only ones in the photo to avoid including children whose parents may not have given permission.
- **Discretion with social media:** Even if photos are taken on designated Sundays, only post photos of kids on social media with prior approval from the Corners Kids leadership team.

SPECIAL REMINDER FOR PHOTOGRAPHING KIDS

- Be engaging by stepping out of your comfort zone and actively interacting with the kids. Don't be afraid to start conversations, make them laugh, or ask questions about what they're doing. Building a connection helps kids feel more comfortable, making it easier to capture genuine, joyful moments.

Great examples!

HERE ARE SOME GREAT EXAMPLES OF OUR CORNERS KID'S!



CHECKLIST

To ensure we capture meaningful moments without taking too many repetitive photos, please use the following checklist. This checklist is divided into **"Every Week"** photos and **"Occasional"** photos to keep things fresh while ensuring consistency and variety over time.

***Note –the focus is on getting good, usable photos—not just snapping pictures. Team members should review the camera roll in real-time to ensure they've captured clear, well-composed shots that meet the requirements.*

EVERY WEEK (4-10 GOOD PHOTOS)

- ☐ Speaker Thumbnail (1 Good Photo)
 - A well-lit, clear photo of the speaker (mid or close-up) for the sermon thumbnail.
- ☐ Worship Moment (2-5 Good Photos)
 - Capture people engaged in worship—singing, praying, or raising hands.
 - Use tight or mid-range shots to avoid empty seats.
- ☐ Community or Connection (1-3 Good Photos)
 - A candid or posed shot in the hallway, lobby, or outside showing people interacting (e.g., talking, laughing, greeting).

OCCASIONALLY (EVERY OTHER OR EVERY FEW TIMES YOU SERVE)

- ☐ Corners Kids (1-3 Good Photos)
 - Capture teachers leading or kids engaging in activities
 - Ensure the photo is clear and respects the privacy guidelines
- ☐ Posed Group Shot (1 Good Photo)
 - Gather a small group (friends, families, or volunteers) for a quick, fun pose. Encourage smiles and natural expressions.
 - Double-check the shot to make sure it's in focus and everyone looks engaged.
- ☐ Posed Group Shot (1-2 Good Photo)
 - Highlight a serve team (e.g., greeters, cafe team, or tech team) actively serving.

PRE & POSTSERVICE

PRESERVICE

Arrive by 9:30AM

- **Punctuality is essential.** If you are running late or unable to make it, text the Production Director immediately. The Production Director will then decide who will take the photos that morning.
- As outlined in the scheduling section, if you know in advance that you will miss your scheduled week, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

Prepare the Camera:

- Ensure the camera is fully charged, and the correct SD card is inserted.
- Double-check that all necessary equipment (lens, battery, etc.) is ready.

Check in with the Production Director:

- Upon arrival, find the Production Director for any updates or special instructions regarding the service.
- If there are no special instructions, proceed with setup as usual.

Test Shots During Rehearsal:

- Take a few test photos during the worship team's rehearsal to adjust the camera settings for lighting and movement.
- There's no need to take many photos before the pre-service huddle—focus on getting the settings dialed in.

POSTSERVICE

Disassemble the Camera:

- Remove the lens and attach the lens caps to both the lens and camera body.
- Leave the SD card in the camera.
- Carefully return all equipment to its designated storage location.

Photo Selection & Editing Process:

- The Lead Pastor or someone designated by him is responsible for selecting the final photos within 2 hours of the service or assigning someone else to do so.
- Once photos are selected, the Photo Team Lead will edit them and have them ready for use within 5 hours of the service.
- If the Team Lead is unable to complete the editing on the same day, they must notify the Communications Director to either arrange for another editor or delay the editing.

FINAL NOTES

The Photo Team at The Corners Chapel plays a crucial role in telling the story of our church and sharing what God is doing in and through our community. By following these guidelines—staying on schedule, communicating effectively, respecting privacy, and capturing meaningful moments—you help create a welcoming, engaging, and authentic image of our church for both current members and those who have yet to walk through our doors.

REMEMBER

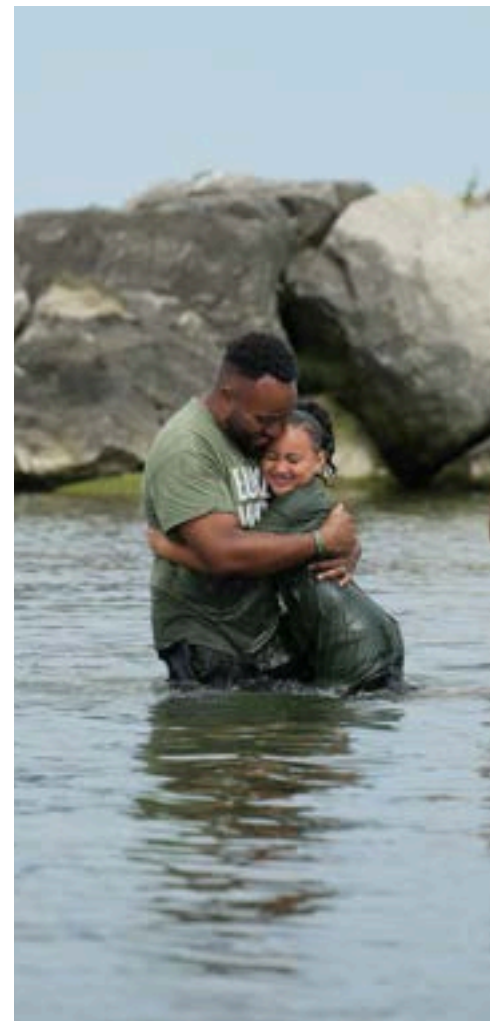
- **Worship Over Perfection:** Our goal is to capture worship, not create a flawless production. It's okay if you miss a shot—focus on capturing the heart of the moment, not just the image.
- **Quality over quantity:** Focus on capturing a few high-quality photos that tell a compelling story each week.
- **Be flexible:** Each service may have unique elements—always check in with the Production Director.
- **Have fun:** Serving on the Photo Team is an opportunity to express creativity and connect with others. Enjoy the process, engage with people, and bring joy to your role.

SPECIAL EVENTS

For special events, additional photographers may be scheduled to ensure full coverage. These events will be communicated ahead of time by the Production Director or Team Lead.

FEEDBACK

We are always looking for ways to improve! If you have any suggestions or feedback, please share them with the Production Director. Your input is valuable and helps us grow as a team.



*Thank you for serving faithfully and using your gifts to make a difference! Together, we're helping people see Jesus through the **lens** of our community.*