

**As we reassemble for the essential purpose of growing in our faith, fellowship, and mission, we want to do everything possible to keep the congregation safe from exposure to Covid-19. We request your cooperation with the following:**



**OCCUPANCY AND SEATING.** In this phase of reopening, we will be limited in capacity, and some chairs will be removed or sectioned off. Except for members of your household, please allow six feet (two to three chairs) between you and others.

To maintain our seating limitations, which may fluctuate in number, we will utilize a reservation system. Reservations for the 9AM, 10:30AM or 6PM can be made online or by calling the church office by Friday noon, preceding the next Sunday service. *You will need to arrive no later than ten minutes prior to service, at which time reservations will be released.* Additional worshipers will be allowed to join on Sunday, space permitting.

*To accomplish proper disinfecting and distancing, please exit the building as soon as service has ended, so that we may disinfect between services. If the lobby is congested, we suggest you use the east door or north door (fellowship hall) to exit. If you are entering the building while someone is exiting, please allow them to exit first and maintain the six-foot distancing.*

**RESTROOMS.** We know it's pretty personal, but a topic that must be addressed. We will depend on you to maintain social distancing in the restrooms. If you notice the stalls are full, please wait in the hallway until someone exits.

Hand washing is more important than ever. Please wash with soap and warm water at least 20 seconds. (The time it takes to sing a verse of Jesus Loves Me or Yankee Doodle!) Then when you are ready to exit, please use a paper towel to grasp the door handle; then toss it into the trash just outside the restroom.

**MASKS.** Masks must be worn by everyone over the age of three. Exception is made while individuals are speaking/singing from the sanctuary platform and for those with medical reasons that prevent the wearing of a mask. The church will have a supply of masks on hand for those who need them.

**GATHERING.** We know it will be rough, since you've not been together for some time, but we need your help with this: The church lobby is small, and we must use it as a passage, and not a place to congregate. Please don't be offended if we ask you to move out of the lobby. We want you to enjoy reconnecting, but if you want to visit after service, we need your cooperation in having these conversations outdoors.

We're a warm and loving congregation, and often express our affection through handshakes and hugs! But during this time,

please forego these expressions and opt for a wave or thumbs up, instead. And smiles are always welcome!

**WELLNESS POLICY.** If you have been around someone who is not well or if you, yourself, are not well (experiencing fever, a sore throat, cough or feel sick in any way) please do not come to church until you are well. But please do let us know, so that we may pray for you! We will provide the sermon in audio or video format so that you do not have to miss out, and we will look forward to worshipping with you in person as soon as your symptoms are gone!

Anticipate some gentle reminders and questions at the door to ensure that all those entering are symptom free. Please show patience and kindness as we comply with the recommendations the church has received in this area. And if, during a service, you begin to have any symptoms (*repeated coughing or sneezing, for instance*), please exit for the remainder of the service. We appreciate your courtesy in taking this precaution.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES.** The anticipated start date for Children's Church is July 1, and will be communicated directly to parents as soon as possible. At any time, families who prefer to keep their children with them in the sanctuary are welcome to do so. (*Nursery and PreSchool class are open, as of 5/31.*)

#### **EXTRA PRECAUTIONS**

- Coffee break between the services is being suspended for a time.
- We will eliminate, at least for now, the passing of bulletins, offering bags and communion trays. Touch free alternatives will be in place, so that we can continue worshipping in these familiar ways.
- Please utilize the hand sanitizing stations located throughout the building.

We recognize this is a lengthy list, but likely not too different from the guidelines you are encountering at businesses and other venues in the community. Understand, please, that additional precautions may be needed, so we ask you to observe the safety posters in the building.

As we like to say around here, "Blessed are the flexible – they won't be bent out of shape!"