

Homecoming Protocols

We are all anxious to get back to our church building and to worship together again. Worshipers must be aware that we cannot ensure a 100% safe environment; there is, in any enclosed space, the risk of becoming infected. However, so that we can make our homecoming as safe as possible, here are the precautions we are taking.

We will:

1. To the best of our ability, follow guidelines from the CDC and ODH regarding numbers of people to gather, how to gather safely, and cleaning/sanitizing recommendations.
2. Continue to offer Live streaming of Wednesday (@7pm) and Sunday (@9:30am) worship on Facebook until such a time that all people can come back to the church building without fear.
3. Offer several different worship times throughout Sunday morning to accommodate the limited number of participants (see #4). When at all possible, we will worship outside (bring your own lawn chair).
4. Have a set number of people allowed in the worship space at a time (pursuant to Gov. Dewine and Dr. Acton). Worshipers will be encouraged to sign up for a worship time on our website.
5. Distribute worship materials electronically. Worshipers will be encouraged to bring these with them (either hard or soft copies). We will have a few copies on hand for those who do not have the technology to receive or print the documents. These will be taken home by the worshiper or recycled on site upon leaving.
6. Have rows of seats blocked off in order to keep appropriate distance between worshipers. In addition, family groups will be asked to leave 4 chairs between themselves and the next family group.
7. Encourage, but not require, worshipers to wear masks. Pastor *will not be masked* as she would not be understood if she did. She will remain a safe 10 feet from the first rows of people.
8. Sing at some of the worship times (no hymnals will be used), but the first worship time on Sunday will be non-singing. We want you to know that there are studies which show that singing at full voice will propel more aerosols into the air, thereby increasing infection risks.
9. Pass the peace in non-touching ways.
10. Receive offerings online or at a stationary offering plate in the worship area.
11. Distribute Holy Communion on a self-serve basis using individual cups. Only Pastor will have touched the elements with clean and sanitized hands. As always, taking Holy Communion is up to the individual. We will keep appropriate distance between family groups during distribution.
12. Sanitize the worship space to the best of our ability between each worship time.

Approved 5/18/2020