

Returning 'Home'

Your Board of Trustees is responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of the building and grounds. In this time of sheltering in place and planning for your return to your church home, we want to let you know what we are doing to help make that a positive and healthy experience.

Last week in the newsletter, Pastor Amy indicated that we will be having a 'trial run' with in-person worship on Sunday, August 2. In preparation for that, here's what the Trustees are doing to make you feel safe and secure, along with several things Pastor Amy has already put into place:

- Because worship space is limited to around 30 people, you will need to sign-up to attend worship. We are asking that in the beginning, you sign up for no more than once a month so that everyone who wants to attend sometime during the month is able. If you've already attended or signed up for once in the month, however, you are welcome to check the sign-up online after 8pm on Saturday evening, and to fill in open spots if there is still availability then.
- You can sign up either by going to the online sign-up sheets for worship via sign-up genius OR by calling the church office during regular office hours Monday thru Thursday 9am to 3pm. The link to the sign-up sheets is here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4AA4AE2DA0FB6-worship>
- The sanctuary will be thoroughly cleaned before each worship service, much like it is right now: dusted, swept, vacuumed, wiped down. Following worship, the sanctuary will be locked until it is cleaned again, which is our normal routine. We now know a lot more about the virus and how long it lives on surfaces (about 36-48 hours). So, making the worship space inaccessible and, then, recleaning should address any issues.
- Masks will be required for worship. Pastor Amy has purchased disposable masks and hand sanitizer for use in the narthex. We would prefer that you use your own masks, however, so that the disposables can be used for guests. We also have several cloth masks available in both adult and child sizes if you don't have one yet to wear in public. Those unable or unwilling to wear a mask will need to worship at home via livestream.
- The sanctuary is cordoned off to ensure social distancing. You may not be able to sit in your 'normal' spot!
- Items requiring 'handling' like hymnals, sign-in pads, pencils, Bibles, etc., have been removed from the pews. One-time, disposable resource materials will be provided for each worship service. Offering will be collected at "stations" around the sanctuary or upon entrance/exit. Offering plates will not be passed.
- Paper Bulletins with the hymns will be placed in the pews on Thursdays during cleaning. No ushers or greeters will be on duty.
- Entrance for worship will be limited to the front doors only, and the interior doors will be propped open to reduce the amount of touching of door handles and push bars. These items will be wiped down after each worship service. Please park in front only. If you do park in back, you will need to walk around to the front doors.
- The nursery will be open for children under three only. Nursery workers will wear masks and keep surfaces sanitized. Many toys have been put away and only those toys that are easily kept clean will be out and available for children to use. Cribs will not be available. Children over three will remain in worship with their family. Crayons and coloring pages for kids over three are available from the sound booth upon request.
- Hearing devices will be available, but you will need to purchase your own earphones/headphones to use with the device. The plug-in is the standard 3.5mm.

- Livestream will continue indefinitely. High-risk populations should continue to worship at home for their safety. Please DO NOT come to worship if you are running a fever or exhibiting other symptoms of illness.
- The Conference has recommended no social gatherings at church, so there will be no coffee time before or after worship. However, it is possible that we might have some type of outdoor gathering where we can maintain social distancing.
- Everyone who comes to worship will need to register their name, address, phone number, cell phone, and email address. This is so that we can do contact tracing in the event that someone attending worship is found to have Covid-19.
- Outside groups using our facility (*Musico* music lessons, NarAnon, Fresh Aire Counseling, etc.) will be required to wipe down surfaces, door handles, etc., after each use, meeting or appointment. We will likely provide the product and materials for them to do this, though they may prefer to use their own.
- A Place for Grace Day Care has a very stringent sanitary requirement to maintain its state license and also has unannounced state inspections for compliance. However, as an added measure of protection, the dividing wall in Gibbs Hall will be pulled closed to keep the kids isolated to one side of the space so that outside groups can meet in the other side.
- Signage will be posted regarding our intentions and requests so both members and guests will know what is expected at worship and in our building.

There is no doubt that worship will be different. *Life* is different right now and for the very near future or longer. Be assured that the Trustees will be doing all they can to reasonably ensure your safety and comfort.