

## **Peace Covid-19 protocols for the resumption of services at the church building**

These procedures have been developed to provide a safe environment for all who worship in our sanctuary, work in our offices and meet in our facility.

### **Preparation of the building**

The intention is to limit our movement within the building to the areas leading to the nave and to the handicapped bathroom. This will assist us in limiting our exposure to potentially wider areas of contamination and allow us to concentrate the cleaning in the areas that are actually used.

- Remove literature racks and any excess tables. No food or coffee will be shared.
- Remove hymnals, bibles and any other printed materials from the pews. The entire service will be printed in the bulletin.
- Keep the doors locked on the side entrances. All worshippers must enter the church at the front entrance
- Provide hand sanitizer station at main entrance
- Restrict movement to the second-floor offices of the pastor and the admin assistant.
- Restrict movement through the corridor leading to the cloak room and the cloak room itself.
- Manage the traffic flow from the nave to the fellowship hall to enter and exit
- Isolate the overflow area from the nave
- Install ribbons (or other markers) on the pews to maintain a 6' space in the center of the pews
- Place 4 bulletins in the pews in every third row to maintain two empty pews between worshippers.
- Place the shopping cart outside at the entrance so that worshippers may contribute items for FISH
- Provide signs (as needed) to direct people
  - All enter at the front door
  - Provide a sign-in sheet for all participants to acknowledge medical condition and provide a means for tracing if necessary
  - Notification for live video taping of the service which may include the worshippers as we stream and tape the service
  - Maintain 6' distance as you enter the church
  - Use the hand sanitizer station upon entering the building
  - Do not use the upstairs bathrooms unless it is an emergency
  - Sit only in the pews with bulletins
  - Directional sign to handicapped bathroom
  - Place offering in the plate provided at the back of the church

- Provide a place for worshippers to dispose of their bulletins and used communion packets
- Provide direction to the worshippers to leave the building promptly after the service. Gatherings with appropriate social distancing can take place outside of the building.
- Wipe down the contact areas of the worship area immediately after the service.

### Prior to Worship

Please assess your health condition before joining other worshippers at the church, by asking yourself the following questions

- Have you tested positive for Covid-19?
- Have you been in contact with anyone who has had a laboratory diagnosis of Covid-19 within the past two weeks?
- Do you have any of the following symptoms?
  - Fever exceeding 100 degrees or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Body aches
  - Headaches
  - Recent loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat

If you need to answer “Yes” to any of the questions, please do not attend worship until you are sure that you are not positive for the virus.

### Worship

We will protect each other and our families by observing these guidelines

- All participants will be required to wear a mask to enter the building. The mask must be properly in place before entering.
- An usher will be stationed outside of the church at the entry doors to greet the members and to ensure that worshippers are wearing masks and maintaining physical distance.
- A second usher/attendant will meet the meet people as they enter and remind them to use the hand sanitizer
- No choir or group processional. No congregational singing.
- Pastor and assisting minister will maintain social distance during the service.
- We will not use handshakes or hugs to share the peace of God during our service. Instead, please nod, wave, or cross your arms over your heart to share the peace at the appropriate time during the service
- Communion will be shared in the pews. Prior to the service, Pastor will wash her hands thoroughly and then set the communion packets on a tray. The packets will be spaced

apart so that there is ample space between them. Each person receiving communion should take their own packet, being careful to not touch any adjacent packets. Pastor will go down each vacant row with the tray and serve the packets to the worshippers. When the packets have been distributed, she will return to the altar and then all communicants will take the bread and wine at her direction.

- At the end of the service, an usher will direct the members to exit by pew starting at the rear of the church
- Worshippers will dispose of communion packet wrappers and bulletins as they leave.
- Worshippers will be encouraged to leave the building directly after the service.
- Those who wish to continue to meet with each other should meet outside of the building so that they can maintain the appropriate physical distance.

6/25/20