Christ Church Williamsport

Returning to Church plan

The following services will be offered:

Sunday 10:00 am, in-person by reservation. We will only admit 40 household units including the Altar party for the service.

Sunday, online 11:30 am on Zoom.

Wednesday 10:00 am on Zoom

Wednesday 6:00 pm, in person, using the same procedures and precautions noted above for the Sunday 10 am service.

Participant check- All clergy, ushers, lectors, musicians, etc. will be asked to submit to temperature tests and display a normal temperature on the day of leading worship.

Admission of Worshippers- reservations will be taken via the phone and the reservation list will be given to the Greeter to check off the names of people who arrive for church. By only taking 40 reservations per service walk-ins and visitors can be easily accommodated. All people must enter the church through the Mulberry Street ramp entrance and exit via the main double doors in the sanctuary.

Attendance- During this phase, a complete record of all attendees at each service will be maintained. The reservation list will be given to the greeter who will highlight the attendees who arrive for the service.

Gathering- Each service will begin with a review by the clergy of the protocols for physical distancing, movement in the space, limitations on physical contact, ways to receive communion, identification of ushers to assist, procedures for exiting the church, etc.

Masks- all worshippers and clergy must wear clean cloth masks before arriving, while in the church, and when exiting. Clergy will remove their masks when at the altar celebrating and officiating/speaking. Lectors and intercessors may remove masks when reading. Disposable single use masks will also be available for attendees. Signs will be posted stating that masks are mandatory.

Physical Distancing- all congregants (except for members dwelling together) and clergy must sit at least 6 ft. from one another. Approved seating will be visibly indicated. Vinyl removable signs with the words “Please sit here” will be placed on the pews that are permitted to be used. It may be necessary to direct individual and family groups to move from seat to seat to achieve required separation.

Single-use bulletins – We will provide paper, single-use bulletins (and a wastebasket for recycling on the way out). All prayer books, hymnals, and bibles have been removed from the pews.

In the pew materials- Tissues and a paper disposable bag will be available in the pews. Members of the congregation will be asked to dispose of the used tissues and bags at the end of service.

Ushers- The ushers’ role in Health Safety will be emphasized with the name tag “Health Safety.” Ushers will escort you to an available pew.
Chancel Party - Physical distancing will be adhered to in the chancel, and a minimum number of ministers will be assigned to serve, allowing for more people in the Congregation and enhancing social distancing. There will 1 celebrant and 1 altar server on the high altar. 1 organist, 1 cantor in the choir stalls. 1 lector will also be seated in the choir stalls.

Choir - will not perform. Congregational singing will also be avoided. A cantor will be present at each service to sing canticles and parts of the Mass.

The Peace - Offering a bow or a wave from your pew at the time of the Peace will be utilized; just like in Lent!

Offertory - Elements will not be processed but brought by the assisting minister or acolyte from the credence table to the altar. If the Celebrant removes his/her mask for the eucharistic prayer, the host will be covered with a cloth.

Collection – The collection plates can be found on stands at the entrance for attendees to deposit upon arriving. You can continue to mail in or drop off pledges if you wish.

Communion - Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with chalice and paten on the altar, and the Celebrant alone will drink from the cup. The minister will wash and sanitized their hands immediately before the distribution. The Celebrant or other minister distributing communion will be masked. Attendees can remove their masks to receive communion. The Celebrant will distribute communion at the chancel step. **Those receiving communion will not kneel but remain standing.** You will be dismissed from your pew when it is time for you to come forward for Communion and given further instructions by the ushers. The Prayer for Spiritual Communion will be added to the bulletin to accommodate those who choose to not receive. Anyone who has mobility issues is encouraged to remain in their pew and to relay that information to the ushers so that the priest can bring communion to the pew. Wine will be offered using single-use recyclable individual cups. Two trays with individual cups containing the consecrated wine will be available along with two empty trays for the placement of the cups after the wine has been consumed. The Altar Guild and Priest will ensure all of the elements have been consumed or properly poured down the piscina.

Pathways - Ushers will direct people to and from the step in a single line to receive communion maintaining safe distancing while standing in line.

Receiving line - **Ushers will help to direct parishioners out of the church at the end of the service. There will be no “receiving line” at the door.** Following the service, the Celebrant will immediately return to the sacristy. You are all encouraged to make an appointment with the priest, if you would like to speak in person.

Counters - Even after contributions have remained untouched for three days, counters will practice safe procedures, including wearing masks and frequent hand washing.

Formation – Online formation will continue when possible.

Nursery – No nursery will be offered.

Coffee Hour – No Coffee hour will be permitted at this time.