

## COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

It is a wonderful opportunity to gather to worship our Lord and join in fellowship with one another, but we must also be careful to do so safely. This pandemic situation requires special considerations in how we gather while remembering that God is gracious and all powerful and has promised to be with us. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matt. 18:20. These protocols are one effort to provide protections for ourselves and others. They will also help us honor our Lord by using His gift. "[F]or God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Tim. 1:7.

For the time being we will have one in-person worship service and will continue to offer an online service. We pray the day will come soon when attendance has increased to the point that we will need to have two services. These protocols will also apply to weddings and funerals for the time being.

### GENERAL

1. Those over 65, those with health complications, those in any high-risk category, etc., are encouraged to stay home.
2. Those who have **ANY** symptoms of coronavirus (fever – a temperature above 100.4, cough, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell) must stay home.
3. You are encouraged to wear a facemask if you are able.
4. Enter and exit the church using the south parking lot doors. Entry to the sanctuary will be the west doors. Exit from the sanctuary will be by ushering out the door at the front of the sanctuary which is across from the office.
5. Doors will be propped open to avoid touching the handle.
6. Areas of the church not used for worship will be locked or blocked with colored tape.
7. Facemasks and gloves will be available and sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the church.
8. The common restroom and women's restroom on the main floor will be open. Please use the sanitizer and paper towels provided on the handle when leaving.
9. Weather permitting, windows will be open, and fans and air conditioning turned on.
10. Areas of the building used for an event will be sanitized as soon as possible after the event is concluded.
11. Reminders to stay 6 feet apart will be placed in the building.
12. Handouts of these Protocols will be made available at the church for members and, especially, non-members.
13. When capacity is reached, additional arrivals will be directed home or to another service, if available.
14. The congregation will be informed if someone tests positive. The person's identity will not be given unless the person agrees.
15. Communication with members will be by email, Facebook, and/or regular mail.

### WORSHIP

1. Worship services will be less than one hour.
2. **Please refrain from singing unless wearing a facemask.**
3. Offering collection plates will be in the hall.
4. The Elder on duty will wear gloves and facemask.

5. Please no physical touching when greeting one another or during the passing of the peace.
6. All hand-held items such as hymnals, Bibles, friendship cards, pens/pencils, and Tot Totes have been removed. Bring your own items from home for kids.
7. Every other pew will be blocked with colored tape to conform to social distancing (6 feet between persons not living together) and 25% capacity.

## **COMMUNION**

1. Those setting up the bread and wine will wear facemasks and gloves.
2. Communion will be by continuous line, observing the 6 foot social distancing.
3. Those distributing communion will wear facemasks and use sanitizer before beginning distribution and if there is significant touching of any objects other than the bread and wine.
4. Recipients are requested to wear facemasks until they approach the distribution area and after receiving communion.
5. Wine will be in individual cups and bread will be distributed hand to hand.
6. Social distancing will be observed as best as possible by the distributor and the recipient both extending arms toward each other.

## **SOCIALIZING**

1. Please arrive for worship a few minutes before the scheduled start time.
2. Please go directly to the sanctuary and sit down. It is requested that there be no socializing in the church.
3. Once ushered out, please go immediately to the parking lot.
4. Socializing may take place in the parking lot, maintaining social distancing.
5. Interior church access will be limited to the entrances and hallways, the sanctuary, and the common and women's bathrooms on the main floor.

**Please Note:** If someone is disregarding the Protocols, they will be asked to begin following the Protocols, stressing the importance of reducing disease transmission and informing them that, if there is still no compliance, they will be asked to leave (gently escort them out if necessary).

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