

Mt. Olivet UMC Plan and Rules for In-Person Worship

Updated on 3/10/21

Before Leaving the House

1. Before leaving to attend in-person worship, each attendee must:
 - a. Take his/her temperature. It must be less than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit in order to attend worship.
 - b. If a person is feeling ill, stay home.
 - c. Bring a face covering.

Parking

2. Attendees shall observe physical distancing of 6-feet from other vehicles or shall park in at least every other parking space.
3. Attendees shall put their face coverings on before leaving their vehicle and keep it on until they return to their vehicle. Persons who are ages two or older must wear a mask at all times while on church property. Persons who are ages two or older including adults who are unable or unwilling to wear a mask must stay home.
4. If someone is parked beside you, wait for them to get out of their vehicle and maintain the 6 feet social distancing rule.
5. All individuals **must** properly wear face coverings while on church property.
6. Signage will be posted at the entrance that states “No one with fever or symptoms of COVID-19 or known exposure to COVID-19 in the prior 14 days is allowed in--

Entrance and Seating

7. At the entrance the attendee will be asked the following:
 - a. I have not had 2 or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
 - b. I have not been in contact with anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (identified in #1) in the past 14 days.
 - c. I have not tested positive for COVID-19, nor am I awaiting test results, nor have I tested positive and have not subsequently had complete resolution of COVID-19 symptoms.
 - d. I will immediately notify the pastor if, after attending this event, I develop 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19, will avoid contact with others, and will seek medical attention.Persons entering must read the form, acknowledge that they can affirm ‘yes’ to all of the statements on it to a volunteer posted at the door, and provide their name and contact information. Persons who cannot affirm ‘yes’ to all the statements on the form will not be able to enter.

8. Upon entry into the narthex, an usher will escort the attendee to his or her pew. (For children who cannot wear face coverings see section 14 below).
 - a. Pew Seating: There will be 6-feet between people on each pew unless they are family members that have been together. The pew space directly in front and directly behind each person will be an empty space so as to ensure people are 6-feet apart. (pew spacing will be marked accordingly). Families with young children will be seated at the back of the church in case they need to leave early. (ex. Child will not keep his or her face covering on)
9. We ask that attendees do not hug, shake hands or have any personal contact with anyone including greeters. 6 feet social distancing should be followed at all times. Do not pass anything between members, guest or the clergy.

Other Safety Precautions

10. Only the main floor will be open with one entrance and exit. (The emergency exits will be available in the event of an emergency). The steps going downstairs will be gated to prevent exit and entry except in the event of an emergency.
11. Attendees may go to the restroom one person at a time during church service. Only the restrooms across from the elevator and the Coats Sunday School classroom will be available for use. (Signs will be posted on the doors noting one person in the restroom at a time and each person will be responsible for disinfecting the bathroom upon use. Disinfectant and supplies will be located in each restroom).
12. All hymnals, Bibles, worship materials, cushions will be removed from the pews. (Everything to be removed).
13. Service will be shorted: pre-recorded or live music with no singing, laity reading of scripture and responsive readings, sermon, prayer, benediction.
 - a. Each speaker - laity or clergy will have their own dedicated microphone.

Dismissal

14. Upon conclusion of the church service, the usher will direct each attendee when it is appropriate to exit and go directly to his or her vehicle.
15. Offering: attendees will be able to drop their offering in a designated spot as they leave. Tithes and offering may be mail or submitted on-line through PayPal services.
16. The church will be cleaned and sanitized after services, and mid-week. The entire main floor, including the bathrooms, will be cleaned by our cleaning staff.

Childcare for those who cannot wear masks

17. Childcare:

- a. Safe Sanctuaries guidelines followed.
- b. Each child **must RSVP** by turning in a health form at **least 4 days** prior to Sunday.
- c. All children's rooms (current nursery and old choir room) will be cleaned and sanitized after each usage.
- d. Remove stuffed animals and cloth toys. Designate which toys, books and supplies will be used. Clean and sanitized after each usage.
- e. Use the nursery bathroom which is for children only.
- f. Volunteers are to submit a health acknowledgement form, wear face covering and wash or sanitize hands before handling children.
- g. The children's rooms will be limited to ensure 6-foot distancing. (4-5 children per room).
- h. The children will be checked into the nursery by a parent, or parent designee. When church service is over, the parent or designee will be dismissed first to be able to pick up their child and exit the building. Once the parent or designee has exited the building the other attendees of the worship service will be ushered to the exits to ensure social distancing.
 - i. The parent or designee will not be able to enter into the nursery or designated childcare room when dropping child off or picking child up. We ask the parents/designees stand near the pastor's office for drop off and pick up.
 - ii. Those waiting for childcare services must maintain social distancing protocols.

Volunteers

18. All Volunteers are required to fill-out a health form weekly.

Enforcement

19. If someone removes his/her face covering, they will be asked to put the face covering back on. If the person refuses, the service will be stopped, and everyone will leave. The person that violates the "mandatory face covering rule" will not be allowed back on church property until he/she agrees to comply with all of the requirements. The same is true for failing to abide by strict physical social distancing (staying 6 feet or more away from others). If someone fails to abide by the physical social distancing requirement, they will be asked to do so. If the person refuses, the service will be stopped, and everyone will leave. The person that violates the "physical social distancing rule" will not be allowed back on church property until he/she agrees to comply with all of the requirements.
20. Ushers will help to enforce the guidelines pertained in this document.

Sunday School

1. All in-person worship guidelines within this document shall be followed during the Sunday school hour.

2. Adults will meet socially distanced in the “Old” Fellowship Hall. Chairs will be spaced at least six feet apart.
3. Adults are asked to come into the building through the “handicap” door under the breezeway. At the entrance the attendee will be asked the following:
 - (1) I have not had 2 or more of the following symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
 - (2) I have not been in contact with anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (identified in #1) in the past 14 days.
 - (3) I have not tested positive for COVID-19, nor am I awaiting test results, nor have I tested positive and have not subsequently had complete resolution of COVID-19 symptoms.
 - (4) I will immediately notify the pastor if, after attending this event, I develop 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19, will avoid contact with others, and will seek medical attention. Persons entering must read the form, acknowledge that they can affirm ‘yes’ to all of the statements on it to a volunteer posted at the door, and provide their name and contact information. Persons who cannot affirm ‘yes’ to all the statements on the form will not be able to enter.
4. Sunday School will last a maximum of 45 minutes. Upon the completion of the Sunday School hour attendees will leave socially distanced through the handicap door exiting the building and will reenter through the main doors into the narthex/sanctuary for in-person worship. The elevator may be used as needed and shall be disinfected after each use.
5. Children’s Sunday School, for those who are able to wear a mask, will be held in the community life center. Parent shall fill-out a health form for each child. The parent is encouraged to use their own pens.
 - (1) Attendees of the Children’s Sunday School will be spaced out using hula hoops. If materials such as crayons are used they shall be sent home with the child or discarded.
 - (2) Parents should pick their child up upon the completion of the Sunday school hour and will follow the same directions for entrance into Sunday morning worship as those stated above for adults.
6. Children under the age of two who are unable to wear masks must spend the Sunday school and worship hour(s) in the nurse’s office.
7. Persons who are ages two or older must wear a mask at all times while on church property. Persons who are ages two or older including adults who are unable or unwilling to wear a mask must stay home.